

Name of Practice:
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN WRITING and REVISIONS
VACS Program Specification for No. NM-1A

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's nutrient management plan writing and revision best management practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

The development of a new Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or the revision of a plan is needed to assure that implemented plans are accurate and up to date to minimize the impact to the environment of nutrients used in crop, pasture, specialty crop and hay production.

The purpose of this practice is to offer financial assistance to farmers and private certified Nutrient Management Planners for the development or revision of nutrient management plans. Participants are provided an incentive to annually revise plans to accurately reflect field conditions so that farmers can maintain eligibility for other cost-share practices.

B. Policies and Specifications

Plans receiving cost share funding for development and revision under this practice must be implemented at, not to exceed, recommended nutrient application rates on all agricultural production acres in the FSA Tract to be in compliance with this specification.

1. Definitions

- i. A **new** Nutrient Management Plan is a plan written for acres that have never been planned or that were part of a previous plan that has been expired for over 18 months.
- ii. An **amended** Nutrient Management Plan is a current NMP that has been updated to accurately match current field crops and/or pasture management practices.
- iii. For this practice only, a **verified** Nutrient Management Plan requires the planner and farmer review the plan and verify that the plan accurately matches current field crops, hay or pasture management practices.
- iv. A **revised** Nutrient Management Plan is one that has expired within the last 18 months and has been rewritten to accurately match actual field crops and management practices.
- v. **Cropland** is defined in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations as land used for the production of grain, oilseeds, silage, or industrial crops.
- vi. **Hay** is a grass, legume, or other plants, such as clover or alfalfa, which is cut and dried for feed, bedding, or mulch.
- vii. **Pasture** is land that supports the grazing of animals for forages.
- viii. **Specialty Crop** is defined as vegetables, tree crops, perennial vine crops, ornamentals, horticultural crops, tobacco, hemp, turf and other similar crops.

2. Eligibility

- i. This practice applies to crop, hay, specialty crop and pasture lands. Permanent pasture acres are eligible for cost-share under this practice.
- ii. The plan must cover at least 12 months of crop and management practices after the signature date on the NMP cover sheet.
- iii. NMPs approved by DCR as part of a VPA or VPDES permit meet the NMP component of this practice. To be eligible for cost-share funding, NMPs must contain an aerial photograph and scaled map. The map shall include FSA Tract and Field numbers and field acreages as outlined in 4VAC50-85-130 D. 2 & 3.
- iv. Cropland, which may receive applications of pelletized Class A biosolids that do not require a permit, is eligible as these products are considered commercial fertilizer.
- v. New plans shall be written for a period of one to three years. Plans shall be verified at one-year intervals for the life of the plan as needed to assure an accurate and up to date match of actual field crops or pasture management practices. Before cost-share payment can be made the following items must be submitted:
 - a. A complete copy of the NMP containing the planner's Virginia Nutrient Management Certificate number;
 - b. An invoice for planning services of the private certified planner;
 - c. A completed Imported Manure Supplier Verification form (if applicable); and
 - d. The acreage receiving (i) mechanically applied, on-farm generated animal manure or a combination of mechanically applied, on-farm generated animal manure and commercial fertilizer and (ii) the acreage receiving only commercial fertilizer and/or imported animal manure must be submitted to the District before cost share reimbursement for writing the plan can be disbursed.
- vii. Plans must be developed based on soil analyses taken within a three year period prior to the start date of the plan and must be performed by soil testing laboratories approved by DCR.
- viii. Participants may redirect their cost-share payment to their private certified Nutrient Management Planner by signing a written statement to that effect. A sample statement is attached to this specification.
- ix. In order to be eligible for cost-share, producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field on which this practice will be implemented. The NMP must comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, (4VAC50-85 et seq.) and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014); must be prepared and certified by a Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner; and must be on file with the local District before any cost-share payment is made to the participant. Plans shall also contain any specific production management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VACV50-85-130G).

- x. In order to verify implementation of the NMP, an applicant must provide to the District:
 - a. A completed verification form (DCR199-244) (04/18); or
 - b. A statement signed by the Nutrient Management Planner and producer that nutrients were applied during this period according to a NMP.

For acres that have not had a NMP written for them within the last 12 months, this requirement is waived.

3. Ineligibility

- i. The preparation of Nutrient Management Plans as a component of biosolids (sewage sludge) application permitting is **NOT ELIGIBLE** for cost-share. Land that is permitted for biosolids applications is eligible for payment except for the year that the biosolids application occurs.
 - ii. Planners will not be paid for plans that are developed without the collaboration and support of the operator. The plan must be reviewed and signed by the certified Nutrient Management Planner when amended or revised as needed to match planned crop rotations and management practices of the operator.
4. This is an annual practice. The Cost-share payment will be issued annually. Applicants may reapply for NM-1A cost-share funding each year. There is no guarantee that cost-share funds will be approved by the local District.

C. Rate(s)

- 1. The VACS payment rate is **\$2.00/acre** for all eligible acres (i.e. newly planned, modified or revised acres) of a field that receives only commercial fertilizer **or** a combination of **imported** animal manure and commercial fertilizer. Any manure applied must be from a farm within Virginia to receive cost share payment.
- 2. The VACS payment rate is **\$4.00/acre** for all eligible acres (i.e. newly planned, modified or revised acres) of a field that receives the participant's mechanically applied **on-farm** generated animal manure **or** a combination of the participant's mechanically applied on-farm generated manure and commercial fertilizer.
- 3. Participants must provide the District a copy of the current plan, which includes amendments or revisions that match all management practices, to be implemented in the cropping year to receive the annual payment.

D. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

Revised April 2023

Planner/Producer Statement of Nutrient Management Plan Implementation for NM-1A

Using a written or digital record keeping system, I have diligently recorded all nutrient applications to the fields in my nutrient management plan for the period _____ through _____ to the crops specified in my nutrient management plan.

_____/_____/_____
(Producer signature) (date signed)

I have reviewed application records kept by _____ and I hereby certify that those records have supplied sufficient information to show the producer has applied the proper materials and nutrient rates to at least 85% of the field acres as specified in the nutrient management plan covering _____ through _____.

_____/_____/_____
(Certified Planner signature) (NMP Cert. No.) (date signed)

Imported Manure Supplier Verification
(Required for NM-1A)*

_____, located at _____ is the
(Name of supplier) (Address of manure location)

source of _____ and can supply
(List type of manure as used in the nutrient management plan)

_____ for plan years beginning
(List the total amount of manure for all plan years)

_ through _____. I understand it is my responsibility (List season/year)
(List season/year)

to apply this manure in the designated fields at the rates and times of year as stated in my
Nutrient Management Plan.

_____ (Name of Contact Person for Manure Supply)

_____ (Phone Number of Contact Person for Manure Supply)

(Receiving farmer/participant's signature)

(Date)

* (Complete this form for NM-1A, ONLY when imported manure is part of the plan recommendations.)

**ASSIGNMENT OF NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN WRITING AND REVISIONS (NM-1A)
COST-SHARE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION**

I _____, do hereby direct
Name

the _____ District to pay any and all cost-
share funds disbursed under the NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN WRITING and REVISIONS (NM-1A) to

_____, of
Name

_____ for
Business

services provided during development of my Nutrient Management Plan. It is further acknowledged that an
IRS form 1099 in the amount of the payment will be sent directly to the above identified contractor.

Signature

Date

Neither the local District nor the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is providing tax advice; the program participant may wish to consult with an independent tax advisor regarding potential tax consequences.