

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY PRECISION NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ON  
CROPLAND – PHOSPHORUS APPLICATION  
VACS Program Specification for No. NM-5P

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Voluntary Precision Nutrient Management on Cropland – Phosphorus Application practice, which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will encourage the use of precision nutrient management practice components that support a higher intensity of phosphorous management in the field than existing standard nutrient management practices.

This practice is intended for row crops, small grains, grain sorghum/milo, canola, specialty crops, produce, turf/sod farms, and highly managed hayland, including alfalfa hay production systems.

This practice supports multiple enhanced nutrient management components such as zone or grid soil fertility samples and all variable rate phosphorous application technologies based upon the soil test results of zone or grid (subfield) sampling. This practice may only be used on fields that apply phosphorous based upon test results identified in section B. 2, whether they have organic nutrient applications or not, with the exception of biosolids applications.

Variable rates of phosphorus apply to all row crops, small grains and highly managed hay crops. Other macro-micro nutrients or soil amendments may be applied concurrently.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This is an annual practice.
2. Results from any test conducted to develop a phosphorous application prescription must be used to determine the phosphorous application rates for the current or following crop as appropriate, and that prescription must be followed during the application of phosphorous.
3. Phosphorous applications must be based upon the soil test results of zone or grid (subfield) sampling recommendations; other macro-micro nutrients may be applied concurrently.
4. Total phosphorus application rates shall not exceed the recommendations of the zone or grid sampling recommendations.

5. Producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) 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. Plans shall also contain any specific production management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VACV50-85-130G).
5. The total number of acres that qualify for this practice will be based upon the total acres that were sampled in zones (zones shall be no larger than 20 acres and based upon soil type) or grids (grid size shall be 1 to 4 acres in size), or had mid-season testing such as variable rate or zone/grid (subfield) applications of phosphorus based upon the zone or grid soil sampling recommendations.
6. The producer shall maintain written verification of the recommendation and the resulting application(s) (e.g. results of laboratory test(s), a work order or detailed bill/invoice showing application rates, an as-applied application map of field(s)) to verify that the recommendations were followed.
7. Fields that have received applications of biosolids within the previous 24 months are not eligible.

C. 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.

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