United States Department of Agriculture

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Conservation Practice Overview

Nutrient Management (Code 590)



Nutrient management involves managing the amount, placement, and timing of plant nutrients to obtain optimum yields and minimize the risk of surface and groundwater pollution.

Practice Information

Nutrient management may be used on any area of land where plant nutrients are applied to enhance yields and maintain or improve chemical and biological condition of the soil. The source of plant nutrients may be from organic wastes, commercial fertilizer, legumes, or crop residue. The objective is to apply the proper amount of nutrients at the proper time to achieve the desired yield and minimize entry of nutrients into surface or groundwater supplies. The amount and timing of nutrients is based on soil testing, planned yield, and growing season of target plants.

Operation and maintenance provide that nutrient management plans must be reviewed and revised, as needed, with each soil test cycle, changes in manure volume or analysis, crops, or crop management. Records must be maintained for at least 5 years to document plan implementation.

All nutrient management activities must adhere to national, State and local water quality regulations.

Common Associated Practices

Nutrient Management (590) is commonly applied with conservation practices needed to mitigate soil erosion and nutrient runoff.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

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