

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

(Acre)

CODE 590

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The owner/client is responsible for safe operation and maintenance of this practice including all equipment. Operation and maintenance addresses the following:

- periodic plan review to determine if adjustments or modifications to the plan are needed. As a minimum, plans will be reviewed and revised with each soil test cycle.
- protection of fertilizer and organic by-product storage facilities from weather and accidental leakage or spillage.
- calibration of application equipment to ensure uniform distribution of material at planned rates.
- documentation of the actual rate at which nutrients were applied. When the actual rates used differ from or exceed the recommended and planned rates, records will indicate the reasons for the differences.

Maintaining records to document plan implementation. As applicable, records include:

- soil test results and recommendations for nutrient application,
- quantities, analyses and sources of nutrients applied,
- dates and method of nutrient applications,
- weather conditions at the time of application and time until a rainfall

event occurred after application (applicable only to situations when air quality issues are being addressed in the plan)

- crops planted, planting and harvest dates, yields, and crop residues removed,
- results of water, plant, and organic by-product analyses, and
- dates of review and person performing the review, and recommendations that resulted from the review.

Records should be maintained for five years; or for a period longer than five years if required by other Federal, state, or local ordinances, or program or contract requirements.

Workers should be protected from and avoid unnecessary contact with chemical fertilizers and organic by-products. Protection should include the use of protective clothing when working with plant nutrients. Extra caution must be taken when handling ammonia sources of nutrients, or when dealing with organic wastes stored in unventilated enclosures.

The disposal of material generated by the cleaning nutrient application equipment should be accomplished properly. Excess material should be collected and stored or field applied in an appropriate manner. Excess material should not be applied on areas of high potential risk for runoff and leaching.