

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS**

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

**(Acre)
CODE 590**

DEFINITION

Managing the amount, source, placement, form and timing of the application of plant nutrients and soil amendments.

PURPOSE

- To budget and supply nutrients for plant production.
- To properly utilize manure or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source.
- To minimize agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground water resources.
- To protect air quality by reducing nitrogen and/or particulate emissions to the atmosphere.
- To maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of soil.

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose(s), using nutrients to achieve production goals and to prevent or minimize water quality impairment.

The following components shall be included in the nutrient management plan:

- aerial photograph or map and a soil map of the site,
- current and/or planned crop rotation or plant production sequence,
- results of soil, plant, water, manure or organic by-product sample analyses,
- realistic yield goals for the crops in the

rotation,

- quantification of all nutrient sources,
- recommended nutrient rates, timing, form, and method of application and incorporation,
- location of designated sensitive areas or resources and the associated, nutrient management restriction,
- guidance for implementation, operation, maintenance, recordkeeping, and
- complete nutrient budget for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium for the rotation or crop sequence.
- If increases in soil phosphorus levels are expected, plans shall document:
 - the soil phosphorus levels at which it may be desirable to convert to phosphorus based implementation,
 - the relationship between soil phosphorus levels and potential for phosphorus transport from the field, and
 - the potential for soil phosphorus drawdown from the production and harvesting of crops.
- When applicable, plans shall include other practices or management activities as determined by specific regulation, program requirements or producer goals.
- In addition to the requirements described above, plans for nutrient management shall also include:
 - discussion about the relationship between nitrogen and phosphorus transport and water quality impairment. The discussion about nitrogen should include information about nitrogen leaching into shallow ground water and potential health impacts. The discussion about phosphorus should include

information about phosphorus accumulation in the soil, the increased potential for phosphorus transport in soluble form, and the types of water quality impairment that could result from phosphorus movement into surface water bodies.

- discussion about how the plan is intended to prevent the nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) supplied for production purposes from contributing to water quality impairment.
- a statement that the plan was developed

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based on the requirements of the current standard and any applicable Federal, state, or local regulations or policies; and that changes in any of these requirements may necessitate a revision of the plan.

- the basis for the decisions for applying liquid or solid forms of manure with the intent of reducing nitrogen or particulate emissions to the atmosphere.
- The disposal or recycling of nutrient containers should be done according to state and local guidelines or regulations.