

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE**  
**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT**  
**590 (ACRE)**

**590 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS**

**PURPOSE**

If nutrients are applied to land in NM this practice is required. The purpose of this step is to determine which purpose the client is applying to the land. The purposes are: To budget and supply nutrients for plant production; To properly utilize manure or other organic by-products as a plant nutrient source; To minimize agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground water resources; and To maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of soil.

The client must be interviewed to determine the purpose and needs for nutrient management. This practice applies to all lands where plant nutrients and soil amendments are applied.

**590 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS AND INVENTORIES**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to identify all of the mandatory preliminary operations that are required before nutrient management applied. A current soils test taken as described in the standard is needed. The results then will be used to develop the jobsheet. Collect the following information, a crop history, water analyzes, and crop to be grown. Any water bodies of concern should be marked on a plan map. Soil texture and shallow ground water should be considered. Annual preplant preapplication soil tests are required for all organic materials.

**590 – STEP 3. PRACTICE PLANNING**

**PURPOSE**

In this step the inventory data is entered into the nutrient management software (see the jobsheet on the NRCS practice standard website). The output when the data is entered will be printed and shared with the producer. All colored boxes in the jobsheet need to be addressed.

If manure is being applied then the organic worksheet of the jobsheet must be filled out. Make good notes on what is being done. The cost of local fertilizer will need to be entered in the cost section to determine a best-buy blend.

**590 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to place the developed jobsheet into the planning document and to review the sheets with the client to be sure they understand the nutrient recommendation at the bottom of the main jobsheet. A record sheet should also be printed and discussed with the client at this time. It is used to document the actual applications when they are applied.

**590 - STEP 5. OPERATION and MAINTENANCE**

**PURPOSE**

The crop must be monitored through the year and any deficiencies checked either with a new soil test or tissue test. Every year a new jobsheet must be developed with a current soil (no older than 5 yrs without organic application).

**590 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING**

**PURPOSE**

The applied management (nutrients applied by field) must be recorded on the records sheet of the jobsheet. The work is subject to a 5% random review. REFERENCES NRCS Technical Note XX has specific instructions on how to run the jobsheet and where to send soil samples. The NRCS Nutrient Management standard has complete information on the requirements for the practice.

## **Practice Documentation Guide 590-2**

Individual help applying this practice may be obtained from the State NRCS Agronomist at 505-761-4400, or NMSU State Extension Agronomist at 505-748-1228.

Nutrient and Pest Management Conservations in Conservation Planning is a course offered by NRCS National Employee Development Center. It can be enrolled into by logging onto the webstie: [www.nedc.usda.gov](http://www.nedc.usda.gov)