

Practice: 590 - Nutrient Management

Scenario: #3 - Diversified/Specialty Crop Nutrient Mangement Plan

Scenario Description:

Small farm/diversified systems include CSA's (community supported agriculture), truck farms, market gardens, etc., where numerous variable crops are grown on small acreages. This scenario attempts to capture the higher cost/acre of nutrient management planning and implementation on smaller production areas (usually between .25-10 acres) with a large number of crops, often times with multiple harvests per year, that require intense and diversified nutrient management. The planned NM system for this organic or conventional production system will meet current 590 Nutrient Management criteria. Payment for implementation of this scenario is to defray the costs of soil testing, manure and/or compost analysis, training attendance, and consultant services that provide nutrient management recommendations, associated nutrient budgets, and recordkeeping. Records demonstrating implementation of the 4 R's of NM will be required.

Before Situation:

In this geographic area, a fertility program does not meet the 590 nutrient management standard. Soil testing is not completed on a regular basis and applications of fertilizers, amendments, manure, and/or compost are not based on land grant university recommendations or a nutrient budget. Nutrients are transported to surface waters through runoff or erosion or to groundwater by leaching in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use of intended purposes. Soil quality may be degraded by excess or inadequate nutrients. Fields have little or no erosion protection during critical periods.

After Situation:

A nutrient management system will be developed to meet the 590 nutrient management standard and NOP regulations where applicable. A nutrient management budget will be developed annually for each "crop block" or each crop rotation pertaining to a block of ground based on soil test analysis and land grant university recommendations or crop removal rates. Application of nutrients will be completed at the proper rate, timing, and methods, and sources. Nitrogen and Phosphorous risk assessment tools are completed and results included in the nutrient management system specifications per 590 standard requirements. N & P loss mitigation measures are included in the conservation plan if determined needed by N Leaching Index and P risk results. Applications will be completed in a manner that minimizes nutrient runoff and leaching or build up of excess nutrient concentrations. Application rates of all nutrients are based upon soil test analyses either LGU recommendations, crop removal rates, or industry standard. Records will be provided annually of the current soil test, analyses, amount of application, forms and rates of nutrients for each crop block.

Scenario Feature Measure:

Scenario Unit: Each

Scenario Typical Size: 1

Scenario Cost: \$19.54

Scenario Cost/Unit: \$19.54

Cost Details (by category):

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
<i>Materials</i>						
Test, Soil Test, Standard	299	Includes materials, shipping, labor, and equipment costs.	Each	\$9.77	2	\$19.54

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Scenario: #5 - Enhanced Nutrient Mgt

Scenario Description:

This scenario takes a conventional cropping system where either no nutrient management or only a basic nutrient management is being practiced. An enhanced nutrient management system includes split applications and multiple nutrient concentration tests (other than only soil tests) and methods that more concisely enable scheduling of appropriate fertilizer applications. Nutrients are transported to surface waters through runoff or wind erosion in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use of intended purposes.

Before Situation:

In this geographic area, conventional fertility programs involve very little or no soil or manure testing. Application of fertilizers, including manures and amendments, are completed annually based upon tradition that does not specifically consider the detrimental affects of improper timing or rates of nutrients, or excess nutrient build-up in the soil. Fields are overwintered with little or no erosion protection often times resulting in sheet, rill, and ephemeral erosion by spring. Runoff flows into adjacent streams, water courses, tile drains, field surface drains, or other water courses causing degradation to receiving waters or leaching of nutrients to shallow ground water sources. There is typically no environmental evaluation of the potential for off-site movement. Soil quality may also be detrimentally affected.

After Situation:

The development and implementation of a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) will benefit plant productivity and reduce off-site movement of nutrients. The use of pre-plant soil tests will assist with the development of the annual nutrient budget in accordance with Land Grant University fertilizer guides. The NMP will stress the use of the four R's (Right Source of Nutrients, Right Time of Application, Right Rate, and Right Method of Application). These include practices such as use of split applications, slow release nutrients, nitrogen inhibitors, proper timing of application, more appropriate formulations, banding, etc. Additional nutrient tests including PSNT (pre-sidedress nitrogen test), CSNT (corn stalk nitrate test), and PPSN (pre-plant soil nitrate test), chlorophyll meters, spectral analysis, etc., may be used to further refine nutrient applications. Record keeping will document application of nutrients based on the 4 R's. Use of a post-harvest soil test or tissue tests (interpreted by a crop consultant) will help establish the adequacy of the plan in meeting crop needs while minimizing P application rate and residual N, thus reducing the potential for off-site impacts. Further minimization of risk is accomplished by identifying the variability across the field(s) by using soil survey maps or other simple techniques to establish zones, along with zonal soil testing. Nutrients are applied at rates based on soil test zone analyses. Nitrogen and Phosphorous risk assessment tools are completed and results included in the nutrient management system specifications as required by NRCS 590 standard criteria. N & P loss mitigation measures are included in the conservation plan if determined needed by N Leaching Index and P risk results. Typical treatment area is 40 acres. Soil testing is completed according to LGU recommendations. Analysis are completed at least once every three years for N-P-K, and for N annually. A nutrient budget is developed for each field or section of field annually. Application of nutrients via fertilizers, and/or manures applied in a manner that minimizes nutrient runoff and leaching. Application rates of all sources of nutrients are based upon soil tests and either LGU recommendations, crop removal rates, or industry standard.

Scenario Feature Measure:

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 40

Scenario Cost: \$9.77

Scenario Cost/Unit: \$0.24

Cost Details (by category):

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
Materials						
Test, Soil Test, Standard	299	Includes materials, shipping, labor, and equipment costs.	Each	\$9.77	1	\$9.77

Practice: 590 - Nutrient Management

Scenario: #6 - Precision NM System

Scenario Description:

This scenario describes the implementation of a basic precision nutrient management system on cropland. The planned NM system will meet the current 590 standard. Payment for implementation is to defray the costs of soil testing, analysis, consultant services that provide nutrient recommendations based on LGU recommendations or crop removal rates and an associated nutrient budget, recordkeeping, and monitoring on a precision level. Records demonstrating implementation of the 4 R's of at the NM plan will be required. This scenario goes beyond the basic NM system by using technologies that improve efficiency and effectiveness of nutrient management by utilizing precision techniques and tools. Precision nutrient mgmt techniques ensure that the right rate, proper timing, and proper placement of nutrients minimize non-point source pollution and provide proper amounts of nutrients to the crop where it is needed and not applying where it is not needed.

Before Situation:

In this geographic area, a fertility program is already in place, however, applied nutrients are applied across large acreages based on a lack of representative soil samples or analyses. The current NM system may or may not meet 590 standards, however, could be improved by more strategic nutrient applications. Because whole fields are fertilized with the same rate, excess nutrients may be applied in some areas while inadequate amounts of nutrients are applied in other areas. Due to the mono-application rate, excess nutrients are transported to surface waters through runoff or erosion or to ground water from leaching in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use of intended purposes. Soil quality may be degraded by excess or inadequate nutrients. Fertilizer applications are made in their entirety more than 30 days prior to planting. Applications do not consider the detrimental affects of improper timing or improper rates. Whole fields with like crops and rotation are fertilized the same.

After Situation:

Soil testing is completed in a fashion that provides a representative assessment of nutrient concentrations in each management zone. Soil sampling consists of methods that allow for various zones to be established. Zone maps are created and a nutrient budget developed for each zone. An application rate (prescription) is developed for each zone based on representative soil analysis and zone nutrient budget. Nutrient applications are based on LGU recommendations. Soil testing is completed annually for N and at least once every three years for P-K. A nutrient budget is developed for each field annually. Application of nutrients is completed so that non-point source pollution is minimized. Nutrients are applied based on realistic yield expectations. Nitrogen and Phosphorous risk assessment tools are completed and results included in the nutrient management system specifications as required by NRCS 590 standard criteria. N & P loss mitigation measures are included in the conservation plan if determined needed by N Leaching Index and P risk results. Records are maintained for all nutrient applications and soil testing. Record keeping will include all soil tests, analysis, zone maps, nutrient prescriptions and budgets, and as-applied applications.

Scenario Feature Measure:

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 40

Scenario Cost: \$807.29

Scenario Cost/Unit: \$20.18

Cost Details (by category):

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
Equipment/Installation						
All terrain vehicles, ATV	965	Includes equipment, power unit and labor costs.	Hour	\$31.85	2	\$63.70
Truck, Pickup	939	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	\$38.64	1	\$38.64
Fertilizer, precision application	952	Fertilizer application performed by light bar/GPS navigation system. Includes equipment, power unit and labor costs.	Acre	\$11.29	40	\$451.60
Labor						
General Labor	231	Labor performed using basic tools such as power tool, shovels, and other tools that do not require extensive training. Ex. pipe layer, herder, concrete placement, materials spreader, flagger, etc.	Hour	\$19.21	2	\$38.42
Materials						
Test, Soil Test, Precision, Grid or Zone	300	Includes materials, shipping, labor, and equipment costs.	Each	\$13.55	15	\$203.25
Test, Soil Nitrogen Testing	311	Pre-Side Dress/Deep Soil Testing. Includes materials and shipping only.	Each	\$11.68	1	\$11.68

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Scenario: #7 - Advanced NM Precision System

Scenario Description:

This scenario describes the implementation of an advanced precision nutrient management system on cropland. The planned NM system will meet the current 590 standard. Payment for implementation is to defray the costs of soil testing, analysis, consultant services, skilled labor and specialized nutrient application that provide proper nutrient recommendations based on LGU recommendations or crop removal rates and an associated nutrient budget, recordkeeping, and monitoring on a precision level that includes split applications, NDVI sensing, and aerial imaging. Records demonstrating implementation of the 4 R's of the NM plan will be required. This scenario goes beyond the basic precision system by using technologies that improve efficiency and effectiveness of nutrient management by utilizing specialized precision techniques and tools (variable rate applicators, NDVI, aerial photography, yield monitoring). Precision nutrient mgmt techniques ensure that the right rate, proper timing, and proper placement of nutrients minimize non-point source pollution and provide proper amounts of nutrients to the crop where it is needed and not applying where it is not needed.

Before Situation:

In this geographic area, a fertility program is already in place, however, application of nutrients across large acreages is based on a lack of representative soil samples or analyses. The current NM system may or may not meet 590 standards, however, could be improved by reducing nutrient inputs and utilizing precise mapping and diagnostic equipment. Because whole fields are often fertilized with the same rate, excess nutrients may be applied in some areas while inadequate amounts of nutrients are applied in other areas. Nutrients are transported to surface waters through runoff or erosion or to ground water from leaching in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use of intended purposes. Soil quality may be degraded by excess or inadequate nutrients. Fertilizer applications are made in their entirety more than 30 days prior to planting. Applications do not consider the detrimental affects of improper timing or improper rates. Whole fields with like crops and rotation are fertilized the same.

After Situation:

Soil testing is completed in a fashion that provides a representative assessment of nutrient concentrations in each management zone, real time NDVI (normalized differenced vegetative index) sensing, EC Index type sampling, or via high definition aerial photography that allows for the identification of numerous variations (zones) in a planning unit. Zone maps are created and a nutrient budget developed for each zone. An application rate (prescription) is developed for each zone based on representative soil analysis and a zone nutrient budget. Soil testing is completed annually for N and at least once every three years for P-K. A nutrient budget is developed for each field annually. Nitrogen and Phosphorous risk assessment tools are completed and results included in the nutrient management system specifications as required by NRCS 590 standard criteria. N & P loss mitigation measures are included in the conservation plan if determined needed by N Leaching Index and P risk results. Application of nutrients is completed so that non-point source pollution is minimized. Nutrients are applied based on realistic yield expectations. The average field size is >=40acres. Applications of nutrients are completed using a GPS guided variable rate fertilizer applicator. Applications of nutrients will be completed in split applications where a majority of the N needs are applied based on the needs of the crop based on growing season requirements. Advanced training may be needed to effectively implement the practice. Producer will attend training courses and use specialized labor where needed in the annual maintenance of the NM plan. Record keeping will include all soil tests, analysis, zone maps, nutrient prescriptions and budgets, and as-applied applications. Yield monitoring maps will be collected and utilized (where technology allows) to develop the following year nutrient applications.

Scenario Feature Measure:

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 40

Scenario Cost: \$1,054.04

Scenario Cost/Unit: \$26.35

Cost Details (by category):

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
Equipment/Installation						
Satellite imagery, aerial photography, infrared	966	Infrared imagery	Acre	\$0.16	40	\$6.40
All terrain vehicles, ATV	965	Includes equipment, power unit and labor costs.	Hour	\$31.85	4	\$127.40
Truck, Pickup	939	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	\$38.64	3	\$115.92
Fertilizer, precision application	952	Fertilizer application performed by light bar/GPS navigation system. Includes equipment, power unit and labor costs.	Acre	\$11.29	40	\$451.60
Labor						
General Labor	231	Labor performed using basic tools such as power tool, shovels, and other tools that do not require extensive training. Ex. pipe layer, herder, concrete placement, materials spreader, flagger, etc.	Hour	\$19.21	3	\$57.63

Labor

Skilled Labor	230	Labor requiring a high level skill set: Includes carpenters, welders, electricians, conservation professionals involved with data collection, monitoring, and or record keeping, etc.	Hour	\$27.01	2	\$54.02
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Materials

Test, Plant Tissue Test	301	Tissue analysis for crops. Includes materials and shipping only.	Each	\$26.14	1	\$26.14
Test, Soil Nitrogen Testing	311	Pre-Side Dress/Deep Soil Testing. Includes materials and shipping only.	Each	\$11.68	1	\$11.68
Test, Soil Test, Precision, Grid or Zone	300	Includes materials, shipping, labor, and equipment costs.	Each	\$13.55	15	\$203.25