

## Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Development & Implementation

### Purpose

- To increase producer collection and use of soil test results to develop nutrient recommendations
- To properly utilize commercial fertilizer, manure and/or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source or soil amendment
- To reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface water and groundwater resources

### Applicability

VNMPs and CNMPs apply to cropland acres in the program area. Acres receiving payment under any other county, state, or federal program (EQIP, H2Ohio, MWCD etc.), are not eligible. Cropland enrolled in CSP and receiving payment for NRCS Practices 590 are not eligible.

### Specifications

1. VNMPs and CNMPs will be developed in the MyFarms application.
2. VNMPs and CNMPs will be written to the current NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard.
3. Nitrogen and Phosphorus rates will follow 2020 Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations (Ohio State Extension - Bulletin 974).
4. Phosphorus application rates shall not exceed a two-year recommendation, per the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations.
5. VNMPs and CNMPs may be developed by an ag retailer, independent crop consultant, or producer.
6. VNMPs and CNMPs must be reviewed and approved by the local SWCD Board of Supervisors or director's designee.
7. Average yield goals shall be used for fertilizer recommendations.
8. VNMPs and CNMPs developed through H2Ohio must meet the minimum requirements set forth in ORC 905.31(DD).
  - a. Soil tests must be compliant with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office technical guide and not older than four years.
  - b. Basic soil samples for soil tests must represent 25 acres or less for a basic VNMP or CNMP. Soil test results must be uploaded or entered in the soil test result form in MyFarms.
  - c. Precision VNMPs and CNMPs, one soil sample must represent no more than six acres for grid sampling and no more than 12 acres for a zone management system. All soil test results must be uploaded into MyFarms in shapefile format.
  - d. Documentation of the method and seasonal time of utilization and application of nutrients.
  - e. Identification of all nutrients applied, including manure, fertilizer, sewage sludge, and biodigester residue.
  - f. Field information regarding land subject to the plan, including the location, spreadable acreage, crops grown, and actual and projected yields.
9. Implementation will be verified by comparing planned nutrient application records to actual application records for the crop year within the VNMP and CNMP in the MyFarms application.
10. VNMPs and CNMPs implemented through this program must meet the minimum requirements set forth in ORC 905.31(DD).

**Additional Considerations for VNMPs and CNMPs**

- Producers will be allowed to place up to 20 pounds of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> as starter fertilizer.

**Basic VNMP Implementation**

- Basic VNMP and CNMP Implementation is any nutrient application for the crop year that is a flat rate application of phosphorus (subsurface application or broadcast application).
- If the Basic VNMP and CNMP has a recommendation for a phosphorus application and the producer elects not to apply or apply less than the recommendation of phosphorus this would also constitute a Basic VNMP Implementation payment.

**Precision VNMP Implementation**

- When a Precision VNMP or CNMP is developed based on zones, soil fertility, soil types, cropping history, and crop management practices should be considered when delineating the zones.
- For Precision VNMP and CNMP implementation, one soil sample must represent no more than six acres for grid sampling and no more than 12 acres for a zone management system.
- Precision VNMP and CNMP Implementation payments will be made for each year if the phosphorus applications are at or below the nutrient recommendations of all grids or zones in a field, or no application was certified.

**Livestock Producers**

Livestock producers who produce a significant amount of manure in their operations will be required to develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

- Operations producing less than 350 tons, or 100,000 gallons of manure annually must be assessed to determine the need for a CNMP. Current soil tests and livestock production facilities will be used to determine if a CNMP is needed for these operations.
- Operations that produce more than 350 tons of manure, or more than 100,000 gallons of liquid manure annually are required to develop a CNMP.
- A livestock production facility site visit and Inventory and Evaluation by the SWCD or ODA, may be required.
- Producers are eligible to participate and receive incentives under all the remaining practices offered through H2Ohio.
- Producers will work directly with the SWCD or ODA to determine if a CNMP is needed.

**Participant Payments**

- Producers will receive \$10/ac/yr upon approval and implementation of Basic VNMP and CNMP Implementation from the SWCD.
- Producers will receive \$15/ac/yr upon approval and implementation of Precision VNMP and CNMP Implementation from the SWCD.