

**NRCS FARM BILL PROGRAM**
  
**2012 Practice Implementation Sheet**
  
**Nutrient Management (590.3)**
  
**Annual Testing & Budgeting**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Farm Bill Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contract Number

**Purpose:** To manage the source, rate, form, timing and placement of fertilizers and other nutrients used for crop production to minimize the potential impact of excessive nutrients on surface and ground water quality. Environmental concerns will be addressed through annual soil testing, development of a Nutrient Management Plan and application of nutrients according to the Nutrient Management Plan.



**\*Producers who have received this payment on the field in question under previous EQIP contracts are not eligible.**

**NRCS will:**

- Assist participants with the development of realistic yield goals to serve as a basis of nutrient applications.
- Assist participants in preparing a Nutrient Management plan map or overlay that delineates fields where nutrients are applied.
- Provide soil and site specific information regarding sensitive areas and potential nutrient loss pathways.
- Provide a soil test plan map showing the soil sampling sites, procedures, locations, numbers and timing, and otherwise assist with soil sampling scheme.
- Assist participants in preparing soil loss evaluations for each field enrolled, using erosion prediction models (WEQ and RUSLE2).
- Develop a nutrient management plan and budgets based on soil test results. Nutrient recommendations will be based on TAMU soil lab or TAES publications.

**Participant will:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Determine cropping sequence and yield goal for the crops produced.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide information about planned planting and harvest dates, methods and field operations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Manage field operations to ensure that soil loss from sheet, rill, and wind erosion is below established tolerances (T).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Soil test within 90 days prior to planting each crop (sample locations and number of samples will be according to the nutrient management plan). **Soil test for phosphorus must be Mehlich III by ICP, and soils tests will be required annually for each field. One soils test can represent up to 40 uniform acres – therefore, a typical 120 acre center pivot will require at least 3 soils tests.**

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- \_\_\_\_\_ **If irrigated, test irrigation water from each system at least annually for nitrates.** Budget nitrates supplied by irrigation water annually in the nutrient management plan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide the NRCS with soil test annually prior to nutrient application. **Soils tests shall be provided to NRCS at least two weeks before the first planned nutrient application of the year** to allow time for development of Nutrient Management Plan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review soil test results and resulting Nutrient Management Plan with NRCS or other Certified Nutrient Management Specialists **prior** to fertilizer applications.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vary nutrient application rates based on NRCS nutrient management plan recommendations. Over-application of nutrients may be considered a contract violation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide records of all nutrient applications **by field.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Organic participants must provide a signed self-certification letter stating the producer's intent to become a certified organic operation (if not already certified) and those currently certified must provide a copy of the Organic System Plan.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Remain in frequent contact with employees in the NRCS Field Office to ensure contract compliance and that the planned objectives are being met.**

**\*\*A Nutrient Management Payment will be paid for three consecutive years in which the Nutrient Management Plan will be implemented. Annual implementation will be considered complete when records of the final nutrient applications for the year are submitted. This may be the year after the practice was begun, meaning the first payment could be made the year after nutrient management practice implementation.**

I understand the requirements of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) practice, and my questions concerning the practice have been answered. I further understand that a failure to adhere to the above requirements may jeopardize any and all payments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date