

Nutrient Management (590)

Diversified/Specialty Crop Nutrient Management Plan

2016 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Purpose: To encourage proper implementation of a certified Nutrient Management Plan developed based on University of Tennessee (UT) guidelines and recommendations and the proper management of the 4 R's (Right rate, Right source, Right application method, and Right application timing) and, where applicable, the National Organic Program (NOP). By implementing a nutrient management plan, producers will be able to reduce nutrient input costs, maintain or increase yields, and minimize nutrient losses from fields, thus helping protect surface and ground water supplies.

Eligible Land: Diversified/Specialty systems where numerous variable crops are grown on small acreages and can have multiple harvests per year. The production system can be organic or conventional.

Requirements on a per field basis are to:

1. Develop a Nutrient Management Plan (590 Implementation Requirement Sheet) for each crop rotation pertaining to a block of ground. The Plan will meet the requirements of the NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard and, where applicable, the NOP regulations. The plan shall document the proper rate, source, application method, and application timing of recommended N, P, and K fertilizer and manure and/or compost applications for each crop block. All sources of nutrients applied must be based on UT Lime and Fertilizer recommendations. Refer to:
<https://ag.tennessee.edu/spp/Pages/soilfertilizerpubs.aspx>
2. Plan erosion to tolerance "T" levels and to a positive soil conditioning index for the crop rotation.
3. Soil sampling locations shall be on a 10 acre or less grid.
4. Collect soil test samples according to UT guidelines in publication PB1061:
<https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1061.pdf>
5. Current soil test analyses (less than one year for nutrient plan development) shall be from UT Soil Testing Lab or a certified soil testing lab approved by The North American Proficiency Testing Program (Soil Science Society of America)
<http://www.naptprogram.org/about/participants> or Agriculture Laboratory Proficiency Program (ALP). Contact the State Agronomist for ALP labs.
 - a. Soil test results must be based on UT soil testing procedures. For soil tests from approved certified labs utilizing Mehlich 3 soil test extractant for Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K), the results must be converted to UT guidelines and fertilizer

recommendations. Refer to UT guide sheet W229 for proper conversion:

<https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W229.pdf>

6. Current manure and/or compost analysis(es) must be less than one year old and shall be from a certified manure testing laboratory:
<http://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/lis/manurelabs.jsp>
7. Nutrient budgets shall be based on a realistic yield goal (average of 3 out of 5 years) for each crop in rotation.

Recordkeeping

See attached recordkeeping sheet for minimum information required to be submitted and certified by the local NRCS office for payment.

Additional Reference:

UT Extension Organic and Sustainable Crop Production

<http://organics.tennessee.edu/default.htm>

