Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Development

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.), for nutrient management 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 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).
    - Soil tests must be compliant with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office technical guide and not older than four years.
    - Documentation of the method and seasonal time of utilization and application of nutrients.
    - Identification of all nutrients applied, including manure, fertilizer, sewage sludge, and biodigester residue.
    - Field information regarding land subject to the plan, including the location, spreadable acreage, crops grown, and actual and projected yields.

Additional Considerations for VNMPs and CNMPs

- Soil samples for soil tests must represent 25 acres or less for a basic VNMP or CNMP.
- For 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.

- Producers will be allowed to place up to 20 pounds of P2O5 as starter fertilizer at planting for corn, even when soil test phosphorus is above 50 ppm. Producers will also be allowed to apply up to 20 pounds of P2O5 as starter fertilizer for wheat establishment, even when soil test phosphorus is above 50 ppm. Starter applications must be included in the nutrient budget.
- 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.
- The Precision BMP requires a variable rate phosphorus prescription map in the VNMP or CNMP for the upcoming enrolled year. Assuming a non-zero nutrient recommendation in the VNMP or CNMP, the precision BMP requires at least one non-zero application rate to be present in the variable rate prescription map.

Additional Considerations for Livestock Producers

Most program participants will be able to use the VNMP to complete H2Ohio program requirements.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- A livestock production facility site visit by the SWCD and potentially ODA, may be required.
- Producers will work directly with the SWCD and / or ODA to determine if a CNMP is needed.

Participant Payments

- Producers will receive $5/ac/year upon approval of a VNMP or CNMP by the SWCD.