

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL05 – Apply Nutrients No More Than 30 Days Prior to Planned Planting Date



Enhancement Name

This enhancement is for applying nutrients from fertilizer, manures and/or compost no more than 30 days prior to the planned planting date of the crop.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland.

Benefits

Nutrient application timing is critical in order for nutrients to be available during critical crop growth stages and to meet crop yield goals. Nutrients that

are land applied in excess of 30 days prior to the planned crop planting date are potentially lost to the environment causing water quality concerns and potential soil emissions of nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas.

Criteria

Implementation of this enhancement requires:

- 1) Fertilizer, manure or any other organic by-products, regardless of form or application method must be applied no more than 30 days prior to the planned crop planting date, or after crop planting.
- 2) The producer must have a current soil test (no more than 3 years old).
- 3) Nutrient application rates must be within the Land Grant University (LGU) recommendations based on soil testing and established yield goals and considering all nutrient sources.
- 4) Soil surface disturbance must be minimized by nutrient applications.

Documentation Requirements for Applying Nutrients (fertilizer, manure, etc.) no more than 30 days prior to the planned planting date of the crop:

- 1) Documentation required for each year of this enhancement:
 - Treatment acres
 - Target (planned) crop
 - Planned planting date
 - Actual planting date and crop planted
 - Soil test results
 - Crop yields (both yield goals and measured yield)



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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- Nutrient application rates/amounts and application dates for each treatment area
- 2) A map showing where the activities are applied.

References

Follett, R.F. 2001. Nitrogen Transformation and Transport Processes. pp. 17-44, In R.F. Follett and J. Hatfield. (eds.). 2001. Nitrogen in the Environment; Sources, Problems, and Solutions. Elsevier Science Publishers. The Netherlands. 520 pp.

Stevenson, F.J. (ed.) 1982. Nitrogen in Agricultural Soils. Agron. Series 22. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, Madison, WI.

**ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT TO ENHANCEMENT WQL05 APPLY NUTRIENTS NO MORE
THEN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO PLANNED PLANTING DATE**

Timing of nutrient application is critical in order for nutrients to be available during critical crop growth stages to meet crop need and reduce the potential for nutrient lost. This enhancement is for applying all nutrients from fertilizer, manure and/or compost no more the 30 days prior to the planned planting date of the crop. This enhancement can only applied on cropland. All applications of fertilizer, manure or compost must be applied in accordance with the Conservation Practice Standard, Nutrient management (590). Refer to the national enhancement for more information.

Criteria

1. All fertilizer (**liming materials is not fertilizer**), manure or any other organic by-products, regardless of form or application method must be applied no more than 30 days prior to the planned crop planting date, or after crop planting.
2. The producer must have a current soil test (no more than 3 years old).
3. Nutrient application rates must be within the Land Grant University (LGU) recommendations based on soil testing and established yield goals, considering all nutrient sources and in accordance with the Alabama Conservation Practice Standard, Nutrient management (590).
4. Soil surface disturbance must be minimized by nutrient applications.
5. If a manure application is being planned a nutrient management plan must be created. A nutrient management plan contains the following for each application site: a) aerial photographs (with buffers); b) soils map; c) crop rotation; d) soil test (no older than 3 years); e) yield goals; f) Alabama Phosphorus Index; g) nutrient budget; h) planned rates, methods, and timing; and i) guidance for implementation/operation and maintenance/record keeping.

Documentation Requirements:

1. Documentation for each year of the enhancement by field a) treatment acres, b) crop planted, c) planed planting dates, d) actual planting date, e) nutrient application rate and application date, and f) crop yield (yield goals and measured yield).
2. Map of the fields where the enhancement was applied.
3. Nutrient management plan if a manure application is planned.

ALABAMA SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THIS ENHANCEMENT

WQL05 – Apply nutrients no more than 30 days prior to planned planting date

Documentation Form

Producer Name:		Date:	
Tract Number(s):		County:	
Field Number(s):			
Acres:			
Year:			
Crop(s) Planted:			
Planned Planting Date:			
Actual Planting Date:			
Type of Nutrient Applied:			
Nutrient Application Rate:			
Nutrient Application Date:			
Crop Yield Goal:			
Measured Yield:			
Soil Test Year:			
Producer has self certified the application of manure was within the 590 standard *			

Attach map showing fields and acreage where enhancement applied and copies of current soil test. If a manure application is planned attach copies of the manure analysis, and nutrient management plan.

* Producer must self certify that no manure application was made on any buffered portion of the field, manure application were not made within 3 days of a storm event and all other requirements for manure application contained within the 590 standard were satisfied.

The supplied documentation accurately reflects the implementation of this enhancement.

SIGNATURE: _____