

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (OK-ECS-011)

Overview

This course will familiarize the participants with the knowledge necessary to understand plant nutrients and their role, soil fertility, soil sampling, soil testing and interpretations, the proper use of inorganic and organic nutrients for crop production, sampling and testing of organic by-products, nutrient impacts on water quality, NRCS Nutrient Management Policy and Standard (590), use of software for field assessment of nutrient impacts, and development of nutrient management plans for land application of nutrients. The course includes a nutrient management exam to certify individuals to make recommendations on the proper use of nutrients and to develop nutrient management plans.

Objectives

Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to:

1. Have a basic knowledge of soil fertility including problem soils such as acid and alkaline soils, the essential nutrients for plant growth, behavior of nutrients in plants and soils, nutrient availability in various soil fertility situations.
2. Understand the proper procedure for soil sampling and testing, interpretation of soil analysis results, sampling and analysis of organic by-products such as animal manures.
3. Develop a working knowledge of the impacts of nutrients on water quality including nitrogen and phosphorus, their impacts on Eutrophication of waters, build up and losses of nutrients in soils, nutrient limited watersheds, and management strategies to reduce nutrient impacts on water quality.
4. Understand the NRCS Nutrient Management Policy, Nutrient Management Standard (590), development of nutrient management plans and specifications, use of the Oklahoma Phosphorus Assessment Tool, and best management practices to be used in managing nutrients in the environment.

Prerequisites

Generally employed for a minimum of one year. Employees should consider taking the on-line courses "Introduction to Water Quality" and the "Nutrient and Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning" through the NRCS National Development Center (NEDS) to develop a background on nutrients and their impacts to water quality. The website is: <http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Duration

Approximately 2 days including certification exam.