

NRCS FARM BILL PROGRAM

2012 Practice Implementation Sheet

Nutrient Management (590.1)

Precision Application - Grid Mapping

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. This practice includes grid mapping and variable rate fertilizer application as a part of the overall 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.
- Assist with soil sampling procedures, soil sampling locations, numbers and timing.
- 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).
- _____ Develop a soil test grid map of each field using soil tests (on a maximum 2 ½ acre grid) at GPS-referenced points.
- _____ Developed Grid Management Zones will be maintained for the life of the EQIP contract.
- _____ Develop a soil sampling strategy consisting of at least one composite sample representing not more than 20 acres from each “Grid Management Zone” for laboratory analysis.
- _____ 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.**

- _____ Provide the NRCS with soil tests 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 Specialist **prior** to fertilizer applications.
- _____ Apply nutrients to each “Grid Management Zone” at variable rates based on NRCS Nutrient Management Plan recommendations. Over-application of nutrients will be considered a contract violation.
- _____ If land is irrigated implement an Irrigation Water Management Plan and provide irrigation records to NRCS field office.
- _____ **If irrigated, test irrigation water from each system at least annually for nitrates.** Budget nitrates supplied by irrigation water in the nutrient management plan each year.
- _____ Provide records of all nutrient applications **and yield maps by “Grid Management Zone.” Nutrient applications may be adjusted based on yield map results.**
- _____ **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 one year in which a 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 have read this Nutrient Management - Mapping practice implementation sheet and my questions concerning the practice implementation have been answered. I understand that failure to follow the practice standard, this fact sheet, and the contract provisions could jeopardize any and all payments.

Participant Signature

Date