

Delaware - Nutrient Management Tiered Approach - 2005

NRCS in Delaware would like to reward producers who implement nutrient management systems that go beyond the minimum requirements of the NRCS policy for nutrient management and the nutrient management standard, 590. A multi-level system of incentives will be offered to producers who do a better overall job of managing nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus.

The Tiered Nutrient Management System Job Sheet must be filled out and filed in the producer's case file.

Tier I = \$1/ac

The nutrient management plan will meet the minimum requirements of the 590 standard, the Delaware nutrient management state law, and will be reviewed annually by a certified nutrient management planner.

Tier II (A&B/C) = \$3/ac Tier II (A&B/C+D1) = \$5/ac Tier II (A&B/C+D2) = \$7/ac

- A. All plans have to meet Tier I and include precision soil sampling or “smart sampling,”^{1,2}
- B. If utilizing commercial fertilizer, the producer must select one of the following or select from D. below.

- Split application of nitrogen OR
- Use of urease inhibitor OR
- Use a stabilized nitrogen fertilizer

- C. If using manure, the producer must also select at least one of the following:

- Injection of side dress application of nitrogen on corn
- Tissue testing
- Soil N test
- Manure applied within 30 days of planting
- Manure incorporation within 5 days
- Liquid manure injection
- Buffer strips installed
- Cover crops planted to scavenge excess nutrients
- PSNT if manure is used or you have high organic soils

- D. In addition, the producer may also implement the following:

1. - Use of either urease inhibitor or stabilized nitrogen fertilizers **AND** split application of nitrogen
2. - Use slow released or controlled-release

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Tier III (A&B) = \$5/ac	Tier III (A&B+ C1) = \$7/ac	Tier III (A&B+C2) = \$9/ac
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Maximum of 500 acres/entity/life of Farm Bill

A. All plans have to meet Tier I and Tier II.

B. The producer **must do one** or a combination of the following practices:

- Variable rate planting, without GPS information.
- Utilize GPS/record keeping software without variable rate inputs ^{2,3}
- Utilize GPS/record keeping/yield monitor without variable rate inputs. ^{2,3}

C. In addition, the producer may also implement the following:

1. - Use of either urease inhibitor or stabilized nitrogen fertilizers **AND** split application of nitrogen
2. - Use slow released or controlled-release

Tier IV (A&B) = \$8/ac	Tier IV (A&B+C1) = \$10/ac	Tier IV (A&B+C2) = \$12/ac
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Tiers III & IV, maximum of 1000 acres/entity/life of Farm Bill

A. All plans have to meet Tier I and Tier II.

B. The producer must utilize a GPS and yield monitor system to collect field-specific crop data and a software/record keeping system that analyzes that data. The analysis then has to be utilized to adjust within field inputs, including variable rate fertilizer, lime, and/or variable rate planting. ^{2,3}

C. In addition, the producer may also implement the following:

1. - Use of either urease inhibitor or stabilized nitrogen fertilizers **AND** split application of nitrogen
2. - Use slow released or controlled-release

¹Smart sampling uses the knowledge of field conditions, such as soils and topography. As the knowledge of within-field variability is gained from yield maps and other layers of information that has been collected using precision agricultural technologies, soil sampling sites can be refined. Smart sampling is usually not grid sampling because it takes fewer soil samples. Before smart sampling, a consultant can use aerial maps and photographs, topographical maps, and yield monitors (if available) to divide the field into natural areas that have similar soil characteristics and yields.

²If a program participant or consultant utilizes GPS and recording keeping for “smart sampling”, this falls under Tier II, not Tiers III and IV.

³GPS/record keeping is done with commercial software. There are numerous software programs on the market that a program participant may use.