



NRCS is in the process of revising its Nutrient Management Practice Standard (590).

This standard has been updated to promote enhanced nutrient management planning activities at the state level. This standard delivers the minimum requirements for nutrient planning associated with USDA programs. Focus has been added on erosion control, nutrient use efficiency, adaptive nitrogen management tactics, tile drainage, and better management of the 4Rs of nutrient application (*Right source, Right timing, Right amount, and Right placement*).

It benefits soil, water, plant, air, animal, and energy systems, by providing guidance:

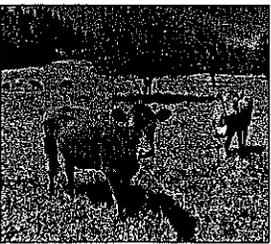
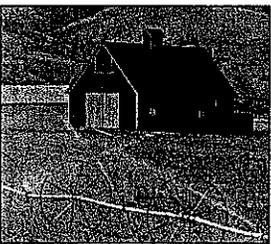
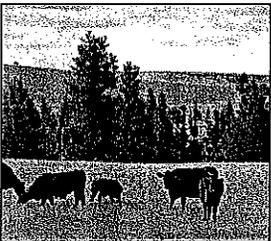
- To budget, supply, and conserve nutrients for plant production;
- To minimize agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground water resources;
- To properly utilize manure or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source;
- To protect air quality by reducing odors, nitrogen emissions (ammonia, oxides of nitrogen and nitrous oxide) and the formation of atmospheric particulates; and
- To maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of soil.

As a product of conservation planning that identifies and addresses resource concerns, practice standard 590 in a conservation system, as revised, removes ambiguity about the technical basis for management actions affecting nutrients. The new standard requires soil tests to justify application amount, form, timing, and location of nutrients and soil amendments. It also clearly identifies critical limits for application of all forms of nutrients.

Producers will combine the use of site-specific assessments with their land management objectives to manage nutrients in form, rate, timing, and place which does not cause excess environmental degradation.

Strengthened reliance on Land Grant University recommendations to guide planning and application of nutrients ensures consistent interpretation of 590.

There is allowance for addition of nutrients, up to 10X critical soil test concentration for phosphorus and potassium for situations involving application of manure and organic by-products.





■ As Nutrient Management continues to be a major component of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans, the new standard will help ensure the protection of precious natural resources.

NRCS Revising 590 Practice Standard (cont.)

Nutrient Management will continue to be a major component to a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and the new standard will help ensure that producers who are implementing a CNMP will be protecting and improving water quality resource concerns.

While we understand that the new standard may require changes in manure management and land application, the outcome over the long run, will be better land stewardship, putting the industry in a favorable light.

In addition to management changes, additional storage facilities may be required, as well as transporting manure further distances for land application.

It's important to remember that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs can help producers transition by providing financial and technical assistance for:

- Waste storage facilities
- The temporary storage manure, wastewater and contaminated runoff as a storage function component of an agricultural waste management system.
- Solid/liquid waste separation facilities
- Partitioning of solids, liquids and their associated nutrients as part of a conservation management system.
- Composting facilities
- Containing and facilitating the controlled aerobic decomposition of manure or other organic material by micro-organisms into a biologically stable organic material that is suitable for use as a soil amendment.
- Nutrient management
- Managing the source, timing, amount (rate) and placement (method of application) of plant nutrients and soil amendments.
- Feed management (not currently offered – but something we could consider)
- Managing the quantity of available nutrients fed to livestock and poultry.



■ The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can provide funds to implement conservation techniques that are approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the establishment of forest cover.

Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources. These funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the NRCS, such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Direct Conservation Loans can be obtained through local FSA offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. ■



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