



# H2Ohio

## Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans Development & Implementation

### A Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan is...

The gateway practice for H2Ohio and will be required to participate in the other agricultural cropland practices.

### How it works

- Producer agrees to develop and implement a Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan consistent with ORC 905.31(DD)
- VNMP can be developed by 4R Certified Dealer, Certified Crop Advisor, SWCD or producer
- Producer submits completed VNMP to SWCD for review and approval
- Producer submits nutrient application records annually for review by SWCD

### Benefits for Farmers

- Nutrient recommendations based on current soil tests and Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations
- Producer may apply for up to 4 years funding
- Producer will receive \$2 per acre upon approval of VNMP and \$2 per acre, per year

### Compatible Practices:

- Variable Rate Phosphorus Application
- Subsurface Phosphorus Placement
- Manure Incorporation
- Conservation Crop Rotation-Small Grains
- Conservation Crop Rotation-Forages
- Overwintering Cover Crops
- Drainage Water Management

Partners in the H2Ohio Program include:



### How to Apply?

If interested, contact your local soil and water conservation district:

Lorain County Conservation District  
42110 Russia Rd.  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440.326.5800

## Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Development

### Purpose

- To increase producer collection and use of soil test results to develop nutrient recommendations
- To properly utilize commercial fertilizer, manure and/or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source or soil amendment
- To reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface water and groundwater resources

### Applicability

Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans (VNMPs) apply to cropland acres in the program area. Acres receiving payment under any other county, state, or federal program (EQIP, H2Ohio, MWCD etc.), are not eligible. Cropland enrolled in CSP and receiving payment for NRCS Practices 590 are not eligible.

### Specifications

1. Plans will be developed in the MyFarms application program.
2. Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans will be written to the current NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard.
3. Nitrogen and Phosphorus rates will follow 2020 Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations – Ohio State Extension - Bulletin 974.
4. Phosphorus application rates shall not exceed more than a two-year recommendation, per the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations.
5. VNMPs will be written with soil tests no older than four years.
6. VNMPs developed through this program must meet the minimum requirements set forth in ORC 905.31(DD).
7. VNMP may be developed by an ag retailer, independent crop consultant, or producer.
8. Plans must be reviewed and approved by the local SWCD Board of Supervisors or director's designee.
9. Average yield goals shall be used for fertilizer recommendations.

### Minimum Requirements of Ohio Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans - ORC 905.31(DD)

- Soil tests must be compliant with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office technical guide and not older than four years.
- Documentation of the method and seasonal time of utilization and application of nutrients.
- Identification of all nutrients applied, including manure, fertilizer, sewage sludge, and biodigester residue.
- Field information regarding land subject to the plan, including the location, spreadable acreage, crops grown, and actual and projected yields.

### Additional Considerations for Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans

- Soil samples for soil tests must represent 25 acres or less for a basic VNMP.
- For precision VNMPs, one soil sample must represent no more than six acres for grid sampling and no more than 12 acres for a zone management system.
- With a precision VNMP producers will be allowed to place up to 20 pounds of P2O5 as starter fertilizer at planting. Planned starter application must be credited from nutrient recommendation.
- When a zone precision VNMP is being developed, soil fertility, soil types, cropping history, and crop management practices should be taken into consideration when delineating the zones.

- Implementation of a precision VNMP will be based on application records showing the prescriptions were utilized for application.

### **Additional Considerations for Livestock Producers**

Most program participants will be able to use the VNMP to complete H2Ohio program requirements.

Livestock producers who produce a significant amount of manure in their operations will be required to develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

- Operations that produce more than 350 tons of manure, or more than 100,000 gallons of liquid manure annually are required to develop a CNMP.
- Operations producing less than 350 tons, or 100,000 gallons of manure annually must be assessed to determine the need for a CNMP. Current soil tests and livestock production facilities will be used to determine if a CNMP is needed for these operations.
- A site visit to the livestock production facilities may be required.
- Current soil tests must be reviewed to assess the operation's ability to utilize nutrients produced at the farm. Livestock operations required to maintain a permit under ODA's Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting Program or under Distressed Watershed Rules are not eligible for incentives under the VNMP practice.
- Producers are eligible to participate and receive incentives under all the remaining practices offered through H2Ohio.
- Producers will work directly with SWCD/ODA to determine if a CNMP is needed.

### **Participant Payments**

- Producers will receive \$10/ac upon approval of a VNMP Development from the SWCD.

# VNMP Development & Approval

**Producer Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Written by 4R Certified NSP

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

| Checklist  | Completed |
|--|-----------|
| Soil tests within past 4 years   |           |
| Soil tests from all fields (including maps)                            |           |
| Manure tests provided  |           |
| All acres accounted for  |           |
| Crop rotations provided  |           |
| Yield goals provided   |           |
| VRT application recommendations verified for Tri-State                 |           |
| Identification of all nutrients planned for application are documented |           |
| Starter/Pop-up fertilizer accounted for                                |           |
| Method and seasonal timing of application documented                   |           |
| Resource concerns addressed  |           |
| Records entered in Beehive   |           |

Length of plan (years): \_\_\_\_\_

Crop Years covered by this plan: \_\_\_\_\_

Acres covered by this plan: \_\_\_\_\_

| Approval      | Name | Date |
|---------------|------|------|
| Plan writer   |      |      |
| SWCD Reviewer |      |      |
| Approved      |      |      |

I hereby state that I have completed this verification form accurately to the best of my knowledge and have provided supporting documentation to show that all items above have been completed. I understand the terms and conditions contained herein and have authority to sign this verification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Producer Initial

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Implementation

### Purpose

- To increase producer collection and use of soil test results to certify that the Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) was followed
- To properly utilize commercial fertilizer, manure and/or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source or soil amendment
- To reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface water and groundwater resources

### Applicability

Applies to cropland acres in the program area. Acres receiving payment under any other county, state, or federal program (EQIP, H2Ohio, MWCD, etc.), are not eligible. Cropland enrolled in CSP and receiving payment for NRCS Practices 590 are not eligible.

### Specifications

1. Implementation will be verified by reviewing planned nutrient application records to actual application records for the crop year within the Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) and MyFarms application program.
2. VNMP implementation will follow the current NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard.
3. Nitrogen and Phosphorus recommendations will follow 2020 Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations – Ohio State Extension - Bulletin 974.
4. VNMPs implemented through this program must meet the minimum requirements set forth in ORC 905.31(DD).

### Additional Considerations for Basic VNMP Implementation

- Basic VNMP Implementation is any nutrient application for the crop year that is a flat rate application of phosphorus (subsurface application or broadcast application).
- If the VNMP has a recommendation for a phosphorus application and the producer elects not to apply or apply less than the recommendation of phosphorus this would also constitute a Basic VNMP Implementation payment.
- Soil tests must represent 25 acres or less for a Basic Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Implementation.

### Additional Considerations for Precision VNMP Implementation

- For precision VNMP implementation, one soil sample must represent no more than six acres for grid sampling and no more than 12 acres for a zone management system.
- Precision VNMP Implementation payments will be made for each year if the phosphorus applications are made using variable rate technology and are at or below the nutrient recommendations of all grids or zones in a field.
- Producers will be allowed to place up to 20 pounds of P2O5 as starter fertilizer at planting.

### Participant Payments

- Producers will receive \$10/ac upon approval of a Basic VNMP Implementation from the SWCD.
- Producers will receive \$15/ac upon approval of Precision VNMP Implementation from the SWCD.

# Nutrient Management Plan - Implementation

## Producer Verification Checklist

Producer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

| Checklist  | Completed |
|--|-----------|
| Complete nutrient application records provided to SWCD               |           |
| Nutrient application records compliant with Nutrient Management Plan |           |
| - Crop rotations   |           |
| - Crop yields  |           |
| - Nutrient sources and analyses                                      |           |
| - Application locations, methods, rates, and timing                  |           |

Variations from written plan? Yes  No

If Yes, are changes consistent with H2Ohio guidelines? Yes  No

Crop Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Acres Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Nutrient Management Plan Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby state that I have completed this verification form accurately to the best of my knowledge and have provided supporting documentation to show that all items above have been completed. I understand the terms and conditions contained herein and have authority to sign this verification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Producer Initial

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### For Office Use

SWCD Notes

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