

## Nutrient Management Plans

Nutrient management involves the balancing of nutrient inputs from manure, fertilizer, soil and crops to the amount of nutrients removed by the crop grown. Proper management requires the development of a written nutrient management plan based on soil analysis, manure analysis, spreader calibration and knowledge of crop inputs and requirements.

As you may be aware financial assistance is now being provided by the Farm Investment Fund in order to have a nutrient management plan completed. However, it is important to note that applications to the Farm Investment Fund are only accepted once per year. Therefore, funding for the nutrient management plan should be requested in conjunction with other eligible projects administered under this program.

The cost of developing a nutrient management plan (the plan itself) will be funded at 100%, up to a maximum of \$1,500. Any costs incurred for the plan over \$1,500 will be cost shared at 50%. Required input data costs (i.e. soil and manure samples, field mapping) will also be cost shared at 50%. NMP renewals are funded at 75%, up to a maximum of \$750. Provincial funding for the NMP and renewal is above the \$10,000 funding cap however, the expenses cost shared at 50% are within the funding cap.

### Requirements for assistance:

The Nutrient Management Planner must have passed the Atlantic Agricultural Coordinating Council (AACC) Nutrient Management Course Exam delivered by the NSAC

They must be in good standing with the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists.

### The Nutrient Management Plan must include:

Producer identification and operation description

Cover at least three cropping years

3 year manure plan (timing and amount of application)

3 year fertilizer plan (timing and amount of application)

Manure and/or commercial fertilizer recommendations based on previous two years history of manure and crops to be grown

Recommendations based on current soil analysis and manure analysis (not older than one year)

Farm land base: farm maps (aerial and line): field names, sizes and soil types

Nutrient balance sheet

Lime program

Phosphorus level description and spreadsheet

Environmental concerns (including information on surface water bodies and wells)

Manure animal units (AU)/ha and alternative manure plan (if needed)

### Nutrient Management information required for requesting claims:

Completed Nutrient Management Plan summary template - available to qualified planners from the program office

Nutrient Balance Sheet

Lime Program

### Equipment Calibration

Calibrating application equipment is a necessary component used in developing a nutrient management plan. The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) has developed resources to assist with calibration. Factsheets are available through the EFP office by calling 896-2420 or on our website (<http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/factsheets>).

## Certified Nutrient Management Planners, 2010

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