

Virginia Nutrient Management Verification Form

Farmer Name or Tracking Number _____

Number of acres covered by the plan: _____

Instructions: In this initial evaluation the verification will cover the most recent 12 month period. Answer all of the questions below to evaluate your client's implementation of their Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) and to help us better evaluate the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR's) nutrient management program. Many of the questions below address the specific activities that the farmer must carry out to implement the NMP. Base your answers on an interview with the farmer and review of the farmer's nutrient management records. Attaching copies of farmer nutrient records is not required.

Use the "notes" sections (where provided) to explain any "justifiable deviations*" by the farmer from the NMP or other discrepancies between the plan and the farmer's records.

*A "justifiable deviation" would be a situation where the farmer takes action that is not exactly as specified in the NMP, but which would follow the intent and standards and specifications of the Virginia Nutrient Management Program. Examples would include: applying lower N and P rates than called for in the plan (as long as there is no yield loss as a result), spreading on snow covered fields only after contacting and working with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to best identify the last risk sites that should be used to prevent a waste storage facility from overtopping, adjusting the nutrients applied to reflect changes in the crops actually planted if different from what was written in the NMP, etc.

If a Certified Nutrient Management Specialist verifies that there is a "justifiable deviation", they must fully document why the deviation is justifiable.

1. Does the NMP cover sheet include a DCR-certified NMP writer's name, certification number, and signature?

a. Yes _____ No _____
b. Notes:

2. Time period covered by the NMP: Does the farmer have a current NM plan? (Based on NMP; 5 years or less for pasture/hayland; 3 years or less for other cases, one year if the plan was written as an annual plan.)

a. Yes _____ No _____ 1Yr _____ 3Yr _____ 5Yr _____
b. Notes:

3. Is the NMP based on up-to-date soil and manure tests for soil & solid/semi-solid manure, not more than three years old?

a. Yes _____ acres No _____ acres
b. Notes:

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4. Are all fields in the NMP receiving nutrient applications under the operational control of the farmer?
- a. Yes _____ acres No _____ acres
- b. Notes:
5. If the NMP includes plans for manure applications on fields with Very High soil test P levels (*VA Tech Soil Testing Lab result of 55 ppm or greater*), are the manure application rates consistent with the phosphorous management provisions contained in the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria revised July, 2014)? (You may answer "YES" if P application rates are at least as stringent as rates based on the P-Index.)
- a. Yes _____ acres No _____ acres NA _____ acres
- b. Notes:
6. Are livestock numbers and manure production & and usage numbers in the NMP consistent with client's current operation? (*If the number of animals has changed by 10% or more the plan must have been updated to answer this question affirmatively.*)
- a. Yes _____ No _____
- If no, actual = more livestock / manure _____ or less livestock / manure _____ than plan?
- b. Notes:
7. Does the farmer have records showing they have implemented the NMP? (*No specific format or form is required. Nutrient application rates, dates, methods, etc. should be documented in sufficient detail to reasonably demonstrate that the plan has been followed.*)
- a. Yes _____ acres No _____ acres
- b. Notes: *For the purpose of determining the baseline, farmers who do not have any records, obtain as much information as possible and encourage him to keep records from this point forward.*
8. Do crop rotations match the NMP? (*If the crop rotation does not match the NMP did the farmer adjust his nutrient applications to fit the crop in the field while not over applying nutrients? To accept this deviation, there must be records on the farm which document the changes made.*)
- a. Yes _____ acres No _____ acres Justifiable Deviation _____ acres (subset of No)
- i. Example: Acceptable Corn in plan. Sorghum planted, but nutrients applied at Sorghum rate.
- ii. Example NOT acceptable: Corn in plan, nutrients applied at corn rate, sorghum planted or field left fallow.
- b. Notes:

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9. Does the farmer follow all application rate recommendations for nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), potassium (K), and lime in the NMP for all every area covered by the NMP? (Note, if the farmer applies nutrients at a rate lower than indicated in the NMP the farmer is still considered to be following the NMP, as long as crop yields do not suffer as a result) This includes any P-based restrictions or prohibitions on application of manure.
- a. Yes _____ acres No _____ acres Justifiable Deviation _____ acres (subset of No)
- i. Example: Acceptable P Index indicates 1.5 times P on crop. Farmer applies to meet crop removal.
- ii. Example: Acceptable Farmer only applies enough K2O to meet crop needs.
- iii. Example Not acceptable: No P or K added and crop production is less than productivity ratings. (Plan will have to be modified at lower production rates)
- b. Notes:
10. Does the farmer follow recommendations in the NMP related to timing of inorganic nitrogen (N) fertilizer applications to every field? Specifically, apply no inorganic N fertilizer applications in the absence of an actively growing crop or more than 30 days ahead of planting.
- a. Yes _____ acres No _____ acres
- b. Notes:
11. Does the farmer follow the spreading schedule in the NMP for applied manure? Less restrictive application timing may be allowed to manage storage constraints on sites that are not environmentally sensitive – see the NMP for details.
- a. Yes _____ acres No _____ acres NA _____ acres
- b. Notes:
12. Does the farmer follow all restrictions in the NMP regarding nutrient applications to frozen or snow-covered ground as stipulated in the approved NMP?
- a. Yes _____ No _____
- b. Notes:
13. On fields listed in the NMP as environmentally sensitive sites, does the farmer follow the more intensive guidelines listed in the NMP for timing of nutrient applications? (In particular, split all inorganic nitrogen (N) applications to row crops and small grains between at least two applications. Also, follow more restrictive guidelines on timing of any manure spreading i.e., not spread more than 30 days before planting or in absence of a growing crop). If the farm has no environmentally sensitive sites, skip.
- a. Yes _____ acres No _____ acres
- b. Notes:
14. Does the farmer follow all NMP recommendations for not spreading manure in designated setback areas (near wells, springs, surface water, etc.)?
- a. Yes _____ No _____
- b. Notes:

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I confirm that to the best of my knowledge the above information is correct.

Based upon the information collected, I believe that the farmer is implementing the Nutrient Management Plan in accordance with the Virginia NMP standards and criteria to the degree depicted below. DCR will track and report all three categories.

Yes _____ acres No _____ acres Justifiable Deviation _____ acres (a subset of no). Acres reported under justifiable deviation means the farmer has demonstrated the intent of following the nutrient management plan, but is not yet in total compliance with the plan on these acres.

Choose one of the following to reflect the level of nutrient management plan implementation for this operation: (Only acres with yes answers for all the above questions are implemented acres for this calculation)

Fully Implemented (90%+ planned acres implemented) _____

Frequently Implemented (89 – 70% planned acres implemented) _____

Moderately implemented (69 - 50% planned acres implemented) _____

Seldom implemented (49% or less planned acres implemented) _____

Specialist's signature _____ Date _____

DCR Central Office Staff will be providing quality control of the surveys and assessments. Staff will be asked to meet with selected farmers and Central Office DCR Staff to review a portion of their surveys.