It Pays to Implement a Nutrient Management Plan

Your farm can benefit.

Your local Soil and Water Conservation District can help you qualify for funds that decrease the cost of writing and implementing a nutrient management plan. Nutrient management can benefit your bottom line by:

- Decreasing fertilizer usage and costs.
- Improving crop quality.
- Increasing the optimum economic yield.

Money comes from the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, which is carried out by conservation districts and administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

How and where they work.

Developing and implementing a nutrient management plan improves water quality by decreasing the amount of nutrients from fertilizer or manure that enter local streams. Excessive levels of nitrogen deplete oxygen in surface water, impairing aquatic life.

Nutrient management practices can be implemented on any crop or pasture lands, including anywhere corn and small grains are grown. They help producers reduce unnecessary nutrient applications by basing them on realistic yield expectations and matching nutrient sources to crop requirements.

Here's the payoff.

In State Program Year 2021, the Virginia Cost-Share Program will pay:

- Up to $4 per acre for writing and revising nutrient management plans. Per acre rates are based on the type of operation, nutrients applied and the nutrient source.
- Up to $8 per acre for sidedressing certain nutrient applications. Per acre cost share rates are based on the type of operation, nutrients applied and the nutrient source. Soil nitrogen testing is reimbursed at a flat, per-sample rate.

Cover crop and no-till practices complement nutrient management and can enhance economic benefits. District staff can direct you to additional opportunities that fit your operation.

Take the next step.

Conservation begins with your local Soil and Water Conservation District, which can help you apply for many different cost-share funding programs to help you implement nutrient management best management practices. They also can identify other conservation programs for which you might qualify.

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Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

VIRGINIA'S SWCD
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS