
Farm Bill Participant

Contract Number

Purpose: This management practice is for the use of organic fertilizer, such as manure, compost, or other organic product on suitable application fields.

The Soil Testing payment is for soil testing and developing nutrient management plans on fields receiving organic products only. The Intensive Organic scenario includes at least one application of manure or compost during the three year period.

Fields which have received this EQIP payment in the past are not eligible.



NRCS will:

- Assist participants with the development of realistic yield goals to serve as a basis of nutrient applications.
- Assist participants in preparing a Nutrient Management plan map or overlay that delineates fields where nutrients are applied.
- Provide soil and site specific information regarding sensitive areas and potential nutrient loss pathways and buffer and offset requirements.
- Assist with development of a soil sampling plan map showing the soil sampling sites, procedures, locations, numbers and timing, and otherwise assist with soil sampling scheme.
- Assist participants in preparing soil loss evaluations for each field enrolled, using current erosion prediction models (WEQ and RUSLE2).
- Assist participants with Phosphorus Index assessments where needed.
- Develop a nutrient management plan and budgets based on soil test results. Nutrient recommendations will be based on TAMU soil lab or TAES publications.

Participant will:

- Provide a signed self-certification letter stating the producer’s intent to become a certified organic operation (if not already certified).
- Provide a copy of the Organic system Plan (if currently certified)
- Determine cropping sequence and realistic yield goal for the crops produced.
- Provide information about planned planting and harvest dates, methods and field operations for each crop and cover crop planned.
- Manage field operations and/or cover crops to ensure that soil loss from sheet, rill, and wind erosion is below established tolerances (T).

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- Perform annual soil testing and apply all nutrients – including compost, manures, and other organic products - in accordance with Texas A&M University nutrient application guidelines and recommendations which will take into account all legume additions (3% N by dry weight). **Soil test for phosphorus must be Mehlich III by ICP, and soils tests will be required annually for each field.** Soil analysis must include soil organic matter content
- Develop a soil sampling plan map in consultation with the NRCS or certified nutrient management specialist. The smallest practical acreage will be sampled for each crop. One composite soil sample can represent up to 40 acres.
- Soil sample within 90 days prior to planting each crop. Adjustments may be made for this time frame if using animal wastes.
- Observe all requirements for buffers and setbacks if applying agricultural waste.
- **If irrigated, test irrigation water from each source at least annually for nitrates.** Include nitrates supplied by irrigation water in the nutrient management budget at least in the third year.
- Provide the NRCS with soil tests annually prior to nutrient application. **Soils tests shall be provided to NRCS at least two weeks before the first planned nutrient application of the year** to allow time for development of Nutrient Management Plan.
- Provide NRCS with a nutrient analysis of all agricultural wastes and other soil amendments containing Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium.
- Agree to develop phosphorus risk assessments (Phosphorus Indices) for each field with soil test P levels exceeding 70 ppm and adjust nutrient applications accordingly.
- Review soil test and nutrient analysis results and participate in Nutrient Management Plan development with NRCS or other Certified Nutrient Management Specialists **prior** to fertilizer applications.
- Provide plant tissue analyses to justify in-season nutrient applications if they differ from the initial nutrient budget.
- Calibrate application equipment to ensure it is applying the intended rate.
- Base nutrient application rates on NRCS nutrient management plan recommendations. Nutrient applications budgeted at rates less than the yield goal are permissible. Over-application of nutrients may be considered a contract violation.
- Provide records of all nutrient, mulch, and /or animal waste applications **by field and amount applied.** Organic fertilizer records will include N-P-K analysis of products used.
- **Remain in frequent contact with employees in the NRCS Field Office to ensure contract compliance and that the planned objectives are being met.**

*****Annual implementation will be considered complete and payment made when records of the final nutrient applications for the year are submitted. This may be**

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the year after the practice was begun, meaning the first payment could be made the year after nutrient management practice implementation.

I have read the Nutrient Management Payment Fact Sheet and my questions concerning the nutrient management practice have been answered. I understand that a failure to follow the specifications may constitute a contract violation and may jeopardize any and all payments.

Participant Signature

Date