**alliance practice worksheet**

VIRGINIA

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT – PASTURE AND HAY (590)

*The conditions and specifications below are adapted from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Producers who are installing these practices under the Alliance will use the conditions and implementation guides below but are exempt from NRCS verification and certification. Completing the Purposes and Practice Specifications on this document is sufficient to self-verify practice installation and completion.*

# Farm Info

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Producer Name |  |
| County (Farm Location) |  |
| FSA Farm Number |  |
| FSA Field Number(s) |  |
| FSA Tract Number(s) |  |
| Practice Status:*If a practice has not yet been implemented, select Planned**If a practice has been implemented, select Applied* | [ ]  Planned | [ ]  Applied |
| Planned Date of IMPLEMENTATION: | Date Practice was APPLIED: |

# PRACTICE: NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT – PASTURE AND HAY (590)

**DEFINITION**: Manage rate, source, placement, and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments while reducing environmental impacts.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT – PASTURE AND HAY (590):**

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/3950/590_VA_CPS_Nutrient_Management_2020>

# GENERAL CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO ALL PURPOSES

* A nutrient management plan (NMP) must be prepared that seeks to maintain or enhance pasture or hay production while minimizing resource degradation.
* The NMP shall be prepared by an individual certified as a NMP writer by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation.
* The NMP must recommend practices that minimize site-specific risk of soil erosion, runoff, and associated nutrient loss.
* If the NMP recommends manure/biosolids applications on fields with Very High (VH) soil test P levels, those rate recommendations must be derived from the P-Index using RUSLE2 erosion estimates (or the recommended rates must be no greater than the P-Index-derived rate).
* See VA 590 Standard for details on minimum NMP content. The minimum NMP content requirements of VA 590 are at least as stringent as the minimum criteria for NMP content in Virginia law.
* In addition to obtaining the above NMP, if implementation of all or part of the NMP occurs within the Alliance contract year (1-year), the producer must also implement the following “Basic 590” elements to satisfy this Standard:
1. Do not exceed application rate recommendations in the NMP for N, P, K, and lime.
2. Follow timing recommendations in the NMP related to lime application. Specifically, identify lime applications as a priority if recommended in the NMP prior to any nutrient application.
3. Follow timing recommendations in the NMP related to N fertilizer. Specifically, apply no inorganic N in the absence of adequate ground cover.
4. Follow the spreading schedule in the NMP for any applied manures/biosolids. In limited cases, manure/biosolids spreading may be allowed up to 60 days (or more) before planting on sites not identified as environmentally sensitive (see VA 590 Standard for details).
5. Follow restrictions in the NMP on nutrient applications to frozen ground or snow. Never spread fertilizer or liquid manure/biosolids on snow or frozen ground.
6. On fields listed as environmentally sensitive sites, follow more aggressive limits on nutrient timing. Never spread manure/biosolids in absence of adequate ground cover.
7. Follow all NMP recommendations for not spreading manure/biosolids in designated setback areas (near wells, springs, etc.).
8. Ensure NMP is based on up-to-date soil and manure tests (liquid manure no older than one year; soil tests for new NMPs two years; soil tests for NMP revisions and solid/semi-solid manure three years).
9. If an existing NMP is being updated, ensure the NMP reflects any increases or decreases in animal numbers or other significant livestock system changes that occur after the NMP was first written.
10. Keep records detailed enough to demonstrate any implementation of the items listed above.

# general INFORMATION

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Complete the below, then fill out and attach at least one copy of each of the following sheets:

* Section A2 – Fields Targeted for 590 Implementation and Planned Performance.
* Section A3 – Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) Evaluation.
* Section B – Basic 590 Specifications & Checkout.

Provide a copy of the NMP or at a minimum a copy of the official NMP cover sheet. Complete and provide the following **optional** sheets and elements if you enrolled for non-required additional Enhancements:

* Section C – Enhanced 590 Specifications & Checkout.
* Producer nutrient management records and other documentation related to 590 implementation.

# PRODUCER PURPOSE(S)

*Select all that apply.*

[ ]  Improve plant health and productivity

[ ]  Reduce excess nutrients in surface and groundwater

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Time Period Targeted For 590 Implementation: | **START** | **END** |
| Month | Year | Month | Year |
|  |  |  |  |

# Fields Targeted for 590 Implementation and Planned Performance

**INSTRUCTIONS**

List below fields targeted for 590 implementation (or use attached sheet(s)). Indicate planned level of 590 performance to be achieved for each field. The minimum level of performance required to fulfill the 590 is to obtain an NMP and implement Basic 590 when applicable (590 Level A and 590 Level B, respectively). Use Sections A3 and B to verify that a proper NMP has been obtained and Basic 590 has been implemented when applicable.

Enhanced 590 (590 Level C) is optional. The columns below provide an option for listing planned enhanced techniques, if desired. Also use Section C of this job sheet (or other attachments) to describe enhanced 590 details.

The far-right column below provides an optional check box to help document that planned 590 performance has been completed for each field.

**ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER FORMATS CAN BE USED TO LIST FIELDS PLANNED FOR 590** **IMPLEMENTATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A2-01.** | **FIELDS TARGETED FOR 590 IMPLEMENTATION:** |
| Tract(s) | Field(s) | Acres | **Planned 590 Technical Activities and Performance** | Check if complete |
| Obtain NMP(Level A) or verify | Basic 590(Level B) | Enhanced 590(Level C) | Planned Enhanced Techniques |
| Enhanced Technique 1 Description | Tech 1 Timing *Month/ Year* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | [ ]  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | [ ]  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | [ ]  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | [ ]  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | [ ]  |

# Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) Evaluation

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Answer the questions below to evaluate the NMP. Provide a copy of the NMP or at minimum a copy of the official NMP cover sheet (and indicate where the complete NMP is filed). If all questions below are answered “Yes”, the client has an NMP that meets minimum VA 590 requirements and has achieved “Level A”.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Check if “YES” ↓** |
| **A3-01.** | Does the attached NMP cover sheet include a hired DCR-certified NMP writer’s name, certification number, and signature?*Free NMP writers do not qualify. Contact your local district if you need assistance.* | [ ]  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A3-02.** | **Time period covered by the NMP:***Based on NMP content; 5 years or less for pasture/hay-land.* | **START** | **FINISH** |
| Month | Year | Month | Year |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Check if “YES” ↓** |
| **A3-03.** | **Is the** **time period targeted for 590** **implementation in Section A1 covered by the NMP?***Compare answers to A1-05 with A3-02, above.* | [ ]  |
| **A3-04.** | **Are all fields targeted for 590 implementation in Section A2 covered by the NMP?** *Compare answers to A2-01 with NMP content, especially Soil Test Summary Page for NUTMAN-generated NMPs.* | [ ]  |
| **A3-05.** | **If the NMP includes plans for manure/biosolids applications on fields with Very High soil test P levels (VA Tech Soil Testing Lab result of 55 ppm or greater), are the manure/biosolids application rates based on the P-Index using RUSLE2 erosion estimates?***You may answer “YES” if rates are at least as stringent as rates based on the P-Index using RUSLE2.* | [ ]  |
| **A3-09.** | **Based on the answers above, will the NMP, when implemented, satisfy the minimum criteria of the VA NRCS 590 Practice for the target time periods and fields listed in Sections A1 and A2?***Answer “YES” to this question only if all questions above are also answered “YES”.* | [ ]  |

# Basic 590 Specifications & Checkout

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This sheet specifies activities the Producer must carry out to fulfill Basic 590 if implementation of all or part of the NMP occurs within the Alliance contract year (1-year). Use this sheet to document all core elements of Basic 590 (590 Level B) that are complete or planned. Base the answers on nutrient management records. Also consider noting in Section A2 that Basic 590 has been completed.

Recommended: Use this sheet to document Basic 590 implementation for the term of the Alliance contract (1 year). Use the notes sections to explain any “justifiable deviations” by the farmer from the NMP or other discrepancies between the plan and the Producer’s records.

**USE ATTACHMENTS AS NEEDED FOR COMPLETE NOTES OR EXPLANATIONS ON BASIC 590 IMPLEMENTATION**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **B-01.** | **Time period covered by this sheet:** | **START** | **FINISH** |
| Month | Year | Month | Year |
|  |  |  |  |

# COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS BELOW

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nutrient Application Rates** | Check box if completed | Check box is not applicable |
| **B-02.** | Do not exceed application rate recommendations for nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), potassium (K), and lime in the NMP.*This includes any P-based limits on manure or biosolids application.* | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Notes: |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nutrient Application Timing** | Check box if completed | Check box is not applicable |
| **B-03.** | Follow recommendations in the NMP related to timing of inorganic nitrogen (N) fertilizer applications to all fields. Specifically, apply no inorganic N fertilizer applications without an actively growing crop or more than 30 days ahead of planting. | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Notes |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nutrient Application Timing (cont.)** | Check box if completed | Check box is not applicable |
| **B-04.** | Follow the spreading schedule in the NMP for any applied manure/biosolids. Spread manure/biosolids on an actively growing crop or within 30 days of planting. Less restrictive application timing may be allowed to manage storage constraints on sites that are ***not*** environmentally sensitive – see the NMP for details. | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Notes |  |
| **Nutrient Application Timing (cont.)** | Check box if completed | Check box is not applicable |
| **B-05.** | Follow NMP recommendations related to frozen or snow-covered ground. Never apply inorganic fertilizer or liquid manure/biosolids to frozen or snow-covered ground. | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Notes |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **More Restrictive Timing on Environmentally Sensitive Fields** | Check box if completed | Check box is not applicable |
| **B-06.** | On any fields listed in the NMP as environmentally sensitive sites, follow more intensive guidelines listed in NMP for timing of nutrient applications. Also, follow more restrictive guidelines on timing of any manure/biosolids spreading (i.e., ***never*** spread more than 30 days before planting or in absence of a growing crop). | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Notes: |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nutrient Placement** | Check box if completed | Check box is not applicable |
| **B-07.** | Follow all NMP recommendations for not spreading manure/biosolids in designated setback areas (near wells, springs, surface water, etc.). | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Notes: |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Soil & Manure Testing** | Check box if completed | Check box is not applicable |
| **B-08.** | Ensure NMP is based on up-to-date soil & manure tests (liquid manure tests no older than one year; soil tests for new NMPs no older than two years; soil tests for NMP revisions and solid/semi-solid manure no older than three years). | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Notes: |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nutrient Management Plan Updating** | Check box if completed | Check box is not applicable |
| **B-09.** | Ensure the NMP is updated to reflect any increases in animal numbers or other significant livestock systems changes that occur after the NMP was first written. | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Notes: |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Basic Nutrient Management Recordkeeping** | Check box if completed | Check box is not applicable |
| **B-11.** | Keep records showing you have carried out all required activities listed above. No specific format or form is required. Nutrient application rates, dates, methods, etc. must be documented in sufficient detail to reasonably demonstrate that all activities have been carried out. | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Notes: |  |

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| --- |
| Notes: |
|  |

# PRODUCER SELF-CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that I have reviewed all required documentation, and the information outlined above meet all criteria and requirements as defined in the Natural Resources Conservation Service **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN – PASTURE AND HAY (590)** standard and specifications for the identified acres or animal units.

Further, I agree that:

[ ]  I have not received a payment for this conservation practice on these fields and acres from another USDA Conservation Program or another USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities grant partner.

[ ]  I will retain all practice documentation to support this certification for up to 12 months following practice adoption and will provide this documentation to the Alliance if selected for a spot check. *(Up to 10% of enrolled Alliance participants will be randomly selected for spot checks).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Producer Name:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |