

Guide for Planners and Clients to Complete Nutrient Management (Practice 590)

Six Steps to Complete Nutrient Management

1. **CLIENT:** Complete Nutrient Management Assessment Survey, review Nutrient Budget Worksheets and Guidance Information to Complete the worksheet provided by NRCS planner.
2. **CLIENT:** Collect all documentation needed to complete Nutrient Budget Planning worksheets provided by NRCS and schedule an appointment with NRCS planner. **Client must provide the following information no later than 48 hours before the appointment.**
 - 2.1. **Soil test result** for the contracted acreage (area for which NRCS has agreed to pay a cost share on nutrient management). Soil test must be from a sample collected after harvest of the previous (to allow for planning for future crop) crop OR from after the final harvest of the planned crop (to evaluate planning from harvested crop). Soil analysis should include determination of percent Soil Organic Matter, and Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium levels at a minimum. *Note: Client should note when fertilizer materials (including incorporated cover crop, compost or other) were added relative to the sample collection date.*
 - 2.2. **Irrigation water nitrate analysis** report by accredited lab. (*Note: Existing documentation of nitrate level acceptable provided analysis not more than 5 years old.*)
 - 2.3. **Records for all inputs** showing analysis and planned or actual application rates for all nutrient containing materials that will be or have been added to the field. These may include the following:
 - 2.3.1. Compost – nutrient content, % moisture
 - 2.3.2. Manure – nutrient content, % moisture
 - 2.3.3. Incorporated cover crops (seed mix and height at incorporation)
 - 2.3.4. Synthetic fertilizers – analysis for all, also density if liquid (all info on label)
 - 2.3.5. Anti-crusting applications (e.g. phosphoric acid)
 - 2.3.6. Other nutrient sources

Note: Organic farmers often find these records are in their OFRI documentation.
3. **NRCS PLANNER:** Review documentation that client submits, verify that information is complete, confirm appointment time.
4. **NRCS PLANNER and CLIENT:** Using the client's records as well as resources from NRCS, UC, trade organizations and other trusted entities, complete the Nutrient Budget Planning worksheets. *Note: If the client would like to do this independently, or has a hired consultant of a UC farm advisor that they would like to work with, that is also acceptable. In this case the NRCS planner must review as indicated below before certifying that the practice is complete.*
5. **CLIENT:** Complete Nutrient Management Planning Summary and Action Plan **AND** Nutrient Management Post Assessment survey provided by NRCS Planner (2 separate documents).
6. **NRCS PLANNER:** Certify that all records are present, that the Nutrient Budget Planning worksheets are completed accurately, and that both surveys and the Summary and Action Plan are all completed.