

Bay Farms On-Farm Network Cooperative Conservation Partnership

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), through a cooperative agreement with Bay Farms On-Farm Network, is setting aside Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds for producers who want to implement advanced nutrient management enhancements on their farms. The Bay Farms On-Farm Network will provide specialized technical assistance to help farmers benefit from collection and interpretation of soil, stalk, and tissue tests and learn how to use this information to improve corn nutrient use efficiency and cost effectiveness. This will help farmers optimize yields while minimizing over-use or loss of nutrients, especially nitrogen, which will benefit the environment. Farmers in Berks, Chester, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties can apply for funding under this special project.

How to Apply:

You need to fill out form NRCS-CPA-1200 and send/bring it to your NRCS county Field Office. You can find the form in our offices or webpage at www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov. Go to Programs, Farm Bill Programs and select Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Under how to apply for EQIP click on EQIP applications. This takes you to the application form.

Basic Nutrient Management Eligibility Requirement:

To participate in the project you will self-certify that you have practiced basic nutrient management for the previous two years on acres to be enrolled in this program. And you need to bring copies of field maps of acres to be enrolled with them to the NRCS county Field Office when they bring their NRCS-CPA-1200 .

Producers practicing a basic nutrient management will self-certify the following:

- Current soil tests for all fields (no older than three years old)
- Manure sampling used to develop manure nutrient application rates
- Nitrogen application rates not exceeding Penn State recommendations for realistic yield goals and properly credit residual soil nitrogen from legumes and manure application history
- Field maps showing acres to be enrolled where basic nutrient management has been practiced
- Nutrient application and yield records (aggregated yield records are acceptable)
- Calibration of manure spreaders and other nutrient application equipment



NOTE: Producers implementing a current CAFO, CNMP, or Act 38 nutrient management plan, or the NRCS 590 nutrient management standard are meeting the requirements for Basic Nutrient Management. Producers who do not have one of these formal plans may meet Basic Nutrient Management if they meet the bulleted items above.

GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

Producers participating in this program must agree to maintain or implement NRCS Nutrient Management standard (590) on the land application area. The 590 standard includes nutrient budgeting for N, P, and K, use of the Pennsylvania Phosphorus Index (P-Index) when applying manure, and following manure application setbacks.

Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) are required to have comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) and follow the land application portion of that CNMP. NRCS assistance is available for individuals who need to develop a CNMP for their AFO. Contact the local NRCS Field Office to sign up for these options, if needed.

| 2010 NRCS payment schedule for CNMP plan development for AFOs | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|
| | Operation size | Payment available/operation* |
| | ≤ 100 acres | \$4,000 |
| | 101 - 250 acres | \$5,000 |
| | > 250 acres | \$6,500 |

*Higher rates may be available for beginning farmers, limited resource farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers

BAY FARMS On-Farm Network Program

Participating farmers are strongly encouraged to attend the annual winter meeting where farmers and their advisors will meet together in small groups to discuss the project, data, and opportunities to improve management, and implications of different management choices on farm economics.

Bay Farms On-Farm Network participating producers will

1. **Work with a crop consultant** to plan N application rates and modify nitrogen management decisions based on farm-specific data, such as results of PSNT, chlorophyll meter, CSNT, and/or strip trials collected during the growing season.
2. **Use one or both an in-season and/or late-season tool** (below) to evaluate crop N status and consider this data when making N management decisions. Tools include:
 - An in-season nitrate availability tool such as the Presidedress Soil Nitrate Test (PSNT) or Chlorophyll Meter,
 - The late-season Corn Stalk Nitrate Test (CSNT) to base future N management decisions and to evaluate N management performance at the end of the growing season.
3. **Keep accurate records** of test results, management decisions such as N applications, and yields. Review and consider these records when making corn N management decisions in current and future years.

| 2010 NRCS payment schedule Nutrient Management (code 590) for Bay Farms On-Farm Network Program | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| NM Advanced— Corn Nutrient Use Efficiency | Use of PSNT, chlorophyll meter, or CSNT—one test | \$10/acre* |
| NM Advanced— Adaptive N for Corn | Use either PSNT or chlorophyll meter AND CSNT—two tests | \$16/acre* |
| NM Advanced— Strip Trial** | Install and utilize a replicated strip trial and analyze plots using chlo- rophyll meter and CSNT | \$40/acre 42 acre max.* |

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**Prior NRCS State Office approval required for Strip Trial option participation

Additional evaluation tools may be used to guide N management decision-making. Planned nutrient application rates are to be based on Land Grant Institution recommendations. Actual nitrogen application rates may be modified based on adaptive nutrient management data collected by the producer and consultant.

For more information on the Bay Farms On-Farm Network, visit www.bayonfarmnetwork.org 1/19/09

For More Information on CCPI and other NRCS conservation Programs visit our internet webpage www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov. Select the Programs tab and move to Farm Bill Programs. To contact your local USDA-NRCS office from the Quick Access column select Employee Directory and then Field Offices by county. Or look for us in the phone book under United States Government Offices.