

AG. WATER QUALITY ACT



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Technical Assistance	Funding Assistance	Important Considerations
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NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

CROPS BMP #5



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Description:
Monitor all aspects of soil fertility and make necessary adjustments so that crop needs are met while minimizing the loss of nutrients to surface or groundwater.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:

- Follow the guidelines in the University of Kentucky’s Extension Publication ID-211, [Kentucky Nutrient Management Planning Guidelines \(KyNMP\)](#), to develop nutrient management plans unless the Producer is required to follow current NRCS [Practice Code 590](#) based on federal program participation.
- Maintain an adopted sequence of crop rotations to utilize nutrients.
- Protect yield potential of the crops planted to help ensure nutrient use. A crop that performs poorly does not take up the expected amount of nutrients, does not provide adequate ground cover, and does not provide healthy root systems. Practices that help ensure high yields are met will better ensure proper nutrient use.

- Take soil tests to determine the pH (buffer), pH (water), phosphorous, potassium, and zinc to optimize plant production.
- Analyze animal manure for total nitrogen, phosphate, potash, and zinc prior to land application to establish nutrient credits and to formulate application rates. Phosphorous-based nutrient management plans shall require annual soil testing.
- Manage animal manure in a manner that prevents degradation of water, soil, air, and that protects public health and safety.
- Sufficient land must be available for a disposal area without overloading soils or exceeding crop requirements for nutrients.
- Minimize edge-of-field delivery of nutrients where no setbacks are required.
- Temporary storage of poultry manure up to 90 days, shall be stored in a manner that prevents water from coming in contact with litter storage area to prevent the migration of nutrients to surface and ground waters.

Recommendations:
Nutrient application rates should be based on soil tests, manure analysis, and [AGR-1 Lime and Nutrient Recommendations](#) for the crops being grown. Manures should be considered and managed as fertilizers not as “waste”. Higher applications than recommended are not profitable and excess nutrients may be transported to groundwater aquifers or to surface streams.

Technical References <u>University Publications</u> IP-71: Nutrient Management in Kentucky ID-211: Kentucky Nutrient Management Planning Guidelines AGR-165: Manure in Crop Production AEN-91: Managing Liquid Dairy Manure IP-57: Manure to Provide the Nutrients Removed by Crops and Forages AGR-146: Manures as Nutrient Sources ID-189: Filter Strips for Livestock <u>USDA/NRCS Publications</u> Practice Code 590: Nutrient Management	Funding Assistance Options <u>State Cost Share</u> - See your local Conservation District to apply. <u>Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)</u> - Select from available program options. <u>NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</u> - Select from available program options.	Important Considerations Water Quality Benefit (💧-💧💧💧): 💧💧💧💧 (KEY: 💧=good, 💧💧💧=best: see PLET interface) <u>Wildlife Benefits</u> Contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Habitat Improvement Program how to improve wildlife habitat with select BMPs (1-800-858-1549).
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