

Nutrient Management Subcommittee Meeting minutes of October 29, 2018, held at the Louisa County Farm Bureau Office, Louisa VA.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by David Kindig, the committee chair.

Voting members present were: David Kindig, Jim Riddell, Keith Burgess. Non-voting committee members were: Tim Sexton, Scott Ambler.

Enough voting members were present to make a quorum.

Minutes of the previous nutrient management subcommittee meeting held September 25, 2018, at Rappahannock Office Building, in Tappahannock, VA, were distributed, to all members. With no objections to those minutes, the meeting advanced to the next order of business.

An updated list of items to be address by this committee was distributed. This updated list included Items 9N, 10N, 11N, 12N, 13N, 14N, 58P, and 4C.

First items discussed were 12N and 13N.

Item 12N, which dealt with a definition of “Fully Implemented Plan” was presented at the October 15, 2018 Full TAC meeting, The item was discussed and sent back to the Nutrient Management Subcommittee for further modification of the wording relating to “Spot Checks” and addition of language the targets “practice acres” so that the district’s employee role is better defined when determining compliance for payments. It is also the suggestion that this item be added in the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share BMP Manual in Section VIII – Glossary and Forms. The following modified language was approved by the committee to be presented to the full TAC on November 15, 2018.

Item: 12N

Fully Implemented Plan-

1. Plan is written by a current, Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner
2. Producer agrees, by a signed document, that as the plan is written, the producer will be able to follow the crop rotation and all the nutrient recommendations on all fields signed up for this practice. (at sign up or prior to payment) Producer signature on Plan cover sheet sufficient to meet this requirement.
3. Considered “Fully Implemented Plans” if applicable:
 - 1) “fully implement” applies only those Practice fields eligible for payment or tax credit.
 - 2) those fields must meet the requirements of the Practice Specifications
 - 3) crops in the plan must accurately match actual crops in the field, and management practices in the plan must be current with field treatments.

Item 13N was sent back to the Nutrient Management Subcommittee for a better term to refer to the farmer, and clarification of the amount of deviation a planner may use when certifying a producer has followed the nutrient management plan. The following updated form was approved by the subcommittee to be presented to the November 15, 2018 full TAC.

Item: 13N

Proposed Statement to meet requirement of part b.

Using a written, or digital record keeping system, I have diligently recorded all nutrient applications to the fields using the materials and rates at or below those stated in my nutrient management plan for the period (month/year) through (month/year) to the crops specified in my nutrient management plan.	
_____	/ /
(producer signature)	(date signed)
I have reviewed application records kept by (<u>producer name</u>) and <i>I here by certify that</i> those records have supplied sufficient information to show the producer has applied the proper materials and nutrient rates to at least 85% of the field acres as specified in the nutrient management plan covering (month/year) through (month/year).	
_____	/ / NMP Cert. No. _____
(planner signature, that wrote the plan)	(date signed)

Further decisions by the Nutrient Management Subcommittee follow. All decisions in the first column were decided by a majority of the voting members. The First column lists the Item Number, N stands for Nutrient Management Subcommittee items. Two items were referred to the N. M. Subcommittee, 58P from the Programmatic subcommittee, 4C from the Cover Crop subcommittee.

Item number/ Decision	Description of Item
1N Table	Modify or change the NM-1A so that it is only eligible for "new" acres or Nutrient Management Plans. Develop a second nutrient management and verification practice (existing plans).
2N Table	Modify NM-3C specification to be consistent with the proposed NM-5N specifications to allow for cost-share payment to be made for acres receiving zero application rate based on PSNT.
3N Table	Virginia Agricultural BMP Lime Program
4N Table	Nutrient management payments should be based on implementation not just writing the plan (recordkeeping, soil tests, application rates etc.)

5N Table	Higher incentives for nutrient management plans on environmentally sensitive areas	
6N Table	More focus on precision nutrient management	
7N Table	The precision nutrient application practices also need to be expanded to include turfgrass, fruit, and vegetables.	
8N Amend -Passed	The NMP requirement for SL-1 practice is overkill	Change spec to require NMP at time of planting to assure field fertility prepared to promote a successful establishment of the crop. NMP for following years of practice life is optional. Practice remains in compliance as long as cover is maintained at 60% cover
9N Amend- Passed	Nitrogen timing and placement as a BMP.	NM-5N, B.2 add vi – injection at sidedress
	<p>NM-5N-1; B. Policies and Specifications;</p> <p>2. At least one of the following identified components must be implemented to receive any cost-share for this practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Soil (pre-sidedress) nitrate test (PSNT) ii. Variable rate nitrogen applications based upon soil test results of (subfield) sampling; other macro-micro nutrients may be applied concurrently iii. Variable rate or zone application of nitrogen on row crops or small grains iv. Multiple (more than two) split applications of nitrogen on corn, cotton and small grains v. More than two applications of nitrogen on highly managed hayland production systems (other than alfalfa). vi. <i>Injection at sidedress</i> 	

10N Amend-passed	<p>NM-1A Section B. Policies and Specifications, 2. Eligibility, iii.</p> <p>Add the following statement: “NMPs approved by DCR staff and/or approved by DCR as part of a VPA or VPDES permit meet the NMP component of this practice. These plans are deemed to be in accordance with VPA or VPDES permit requirements and/or 4VAC50-85-130 D. 2 & 3., 4VAC50-85 et seq., and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014).”</p>	<p>This statement will replace iii.</p> <p><i>“NMP’s approved as part of a VPA or VPDES permit meet the NMP component of this practice.”</i></p>
	<p>B. Policies and Specifications; 2. Eligibility;</p> <p>Current:</p> <p>iii. Nutrient management plans developed for farms having or requiring VAP or VPDES animal waste permits qualify for cost-share at the rates listed. These plans <u>must</u> include special instructions required to meet VPA or VPDES permit requirements and must be approved by DCR as required by the VAP or VPDES permit. Cost-share payment cannot be made until the plan is approved by DCR. Nutrient Management Plans written as part of a VPA or VPDES permit must address requirements of applicable regulations to the operation in addition to meeting requirements stated in this section</p> <p>Proposed:</p> <p>iii. <i>“Nutrient Management Plan’s approved as part of a VPA or VPDES permit meet the NMP component of this practice.”</i></p>	
11N table	Take out the statement of turning in verifications to the district in the NM-1A spec.	
12N Passed	Define “Fully implemented Nutrient Management Plan”	
13N Passed	Planner-Producer form, as part of NM-1A. Develop appropriate wording that clearly identifies what is needed to meet this requirement	

14N Recommend	Create Practice to promote consistent private planner verification.	Set up as separate practice to help support extra involvement of private planners. Set up as verification form, instead of record keeping. Set up single payment based on size of operation. 100-399 acres \$225. 400 – 999 acres \$400; 1,000+ \$600. (Private planners contractual acres not eligible)
Programmatic Subcommittee		
58P Recommendation	Financial assistance for precision equipment	Suggest that tax-credit for precision application equipment be increased. Suggested increase to be based on consultation with industry and Virginia Tech precision ag specialists.
Cover Crop Subcommittee		
4C Recommendation	SL-8, Add this to the list of “priority practices” and also adjust the CEF calculations to make this practice comparable to SL-8B in importance	If this practice is moved to be a “gateway” (priority) practice, then require NMP to manage cover crop fertility as well as crop to be grown in the rotation. Also, eligible cover crop species need to be specific for seasons other than fall plantings to include fallow periods though the growing season.

The meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

The next nutrient management subcommittee meeting will be held:

Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Louisa County Farm Bureau Office

407A East Main Street

Louisa, VA 23093

Office Phone: 540-967-1370

Submitted by: David Kindig

Nutrient Management Subcommittee Chairman