

## How do I develop a NMP?



1. Contact your Agronomist—Your agronomist is familiar with your farm and may have already completed many of the requirements needed to write a NMP, such as soil sampling and nutrient crediting. They would be responsible for developing your plan according to state standards.
2. Attend Certification Training—If you are interested in writing your own plan, you can take a course to become certified. The course consists of 4 classes that cover soil sampling, N & P crediting, UW recommendations and the implementation of SNAP +. SNAP + is a computer program that integrates all the information needed for a NMP. At the completion of the course you will have a NMP and the knowledge to update it in the future.

## How does this NMP benefit me?

Once completed a nutrient management plan will provide you with a written document forecasting your nutrient applications for the next season.

Your plan will show...

- Your soil tests results
- Amount of total manure produced
- Where you should and should not spread fertilizers
- Which fields are receiving a certain type and rate of fertilizer
- Total amount of commercial fertilizer to purchase

...This information and more will help you efficiently utilize the nutrients on your farm.

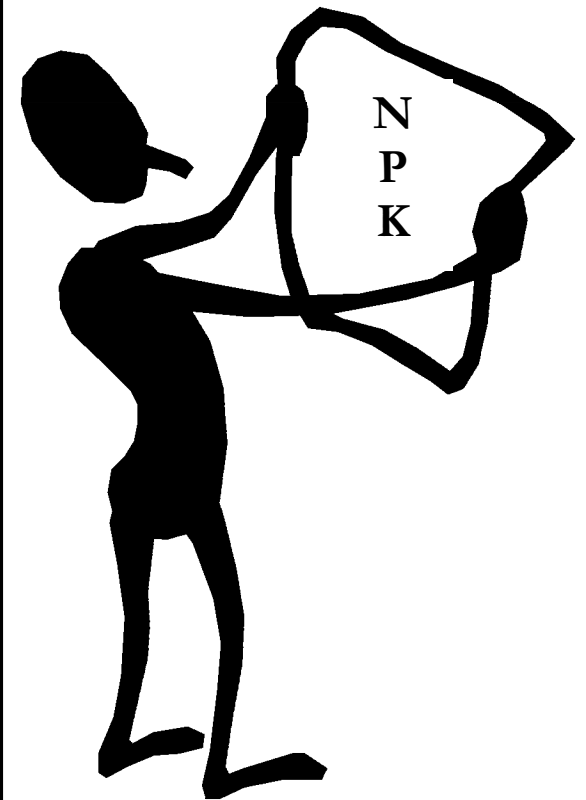


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# What is a Nutrient Management Plan?



# A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)...

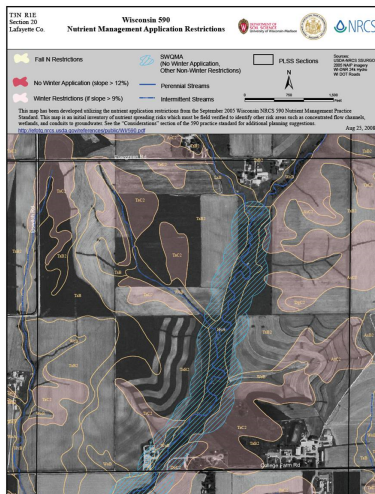
...is used to manage the amount, placement, timing, and application of nutrients and is required for all crop and livestock producers that apply manure or other nutrients directly to agricultural fields.

## 10 Steps to a NMP

### 1. Update your Conservation Plan

Many landowners developed their conservation plan when they started farming, but may not have reported changes along the way. An updated Conservation Plan is necessary to ensure you are taking credit for your actual crop rotations and minimizing soil erosion.

2. **Aerial Photos**— Accurate photos of field boundaries, soil type, surface waters and restrictions is the foundation for the rest of the plan.



3. **Soil Tests**—The soil test is the key component needed for developing the nutrient rate recommendation. Soil tests are required once every 4 years and one sample every 5 acres. Tests need to be taken according to UW recommendations.
4. **Nutrient Sources**—Manure, commercial fertilizers and nitrogen crediting are all important factors in developing a NMP. Animal numbers are needed to estimate annual manure production. Type and quantity of commercial fertilizers is also needed to accurately figure nutrients needed.
5. **Realistic Yield Goals**—There are many factors affecting yields, that is why using historic yields is important in developing your yield goal for the next year. Accurate yield estimates can dramatically improve nutrient use efficiency.
6. **Spreader Calibration**—Calibrating your spreader is important in determining the rate at which you apply your manure.



7. **Recommended Rates**—UW Recommendations are used to ensure optimum nutrient availability at all stages of growth.
8. **Recommended Timing**—When you apply your fertilizer, impacts it's effectiveness. When you apply nitrogen in the fall, either as commercial fertilizer or as manure from your storage facility, you need to consider the ambient temperature, in order to decrease nitrogen losses.



9. **Recommended Methods**—Do you surface apply your nutrients or do you inject them? Once applied do you incorporate the fertilizer or leave it on the surface. Each method has an impact on the effectiveness of the fertilizer.
10. **Annual Review & Update**—Even the best managers are forced to deviate from their plans. Updating your plan annually ensures accurate crediting and reporting.