

Nutrient Management Plans and Watershed Project goals

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Topics

- What will NM plans address?
- How to get more NM plans
- How to get NM plans used by farmers
- How plans can help farmers make changes in crop practices to meet watershed goals

What will NM plans address?

- Cropland?
- Cropland and Pastures?
- Cropland and Animal production area(s)?
- Cropland, Pastures and Animal prod areas?



How to get more plans (used by farmers)

- Farmer participation is key
- Farmers know their fields well, but may not know about WQ problems in nearby waterways – make this connection
- Not all fields are the problem; only some fields may have 'problems'
- Project will help ID and target problem fields

How to get more plans (used by farmers)

- Targeting fields will minimize change/cost to farmers and improve WQ
- Protect landowner identity
 - Codes, Map scales & features
 - Funding source and Project Scope dependent
 - Project cannot 'shield' farms from:
Ag Spill Law, FPP or NR 151 Prohibitions
- Agreement with State/Local agency that regulatory action is 'last resort' for participating farms



How to get more plans (used by farmers)

- Make NM planning easier:
 - Field Inventory and Soil Sampling services
 - Data Entry service - SNAP+
 - Record Keeping assistance
 - Financial Resources
 - NRCS – EQIP, CRP, CSP, GLCI, CNMPs
 - Cost sharing – state \$ - **regulatory**
 - Grants – Federal, State, Private - **regulatory**
 - Point Sources – Adapt Management & WQ Trading

How to get more plans (used by farmers)

- **Economics**
 - save on fertilizer & fuel costs
- **Soil Health**
 - Improve soil structure & productivity
 - Increase or more consistent yields
 - Conserve soil resources from erosion losses
- **Environment**
 - cleaner water and improved land stewardship
 - better aquatic habitat

How to get more plans (used by farmers)

- **Public Relations**

- Farms are part of solution; not part of the problem
- Farms deliver clean water vs. other land use
- Farmers understand water leaving fields impacts folks living downstream
- Help public learn and support farmers in 'their' watershed(s)
- Demonstrate how farms help protect land and water

How to get more plans (used by farmers)

- Track or predict WQ trends via monitoring or modeling
- Compare results with actions taken or planned (by field or watershed)
- Offer Record Keeping services
 - minimize farmer time for record keeping; confirm actual management practices used on fields

How plans can help farmers make changes & meet watershed goals

- Recognize NM plans that only address fields may or may not meet watershed goals



- Analyze NM practices taken or planned by field or watershed (via monitoring / modeling)
- Demonstrate not all fields are problem; only some/few fields have 'problems'.
- Targeting 'problem fields' helps minimize change/cost to farmers and improve WQ