

What is an NMP?

A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is a budget of nutrients on your farm that is required for all certified farms in Vermont. It helps you:

- Plan manure and other nutrient applications to meet your yield goals
- Save money on unneeded fertilizers
- Maintain or improve soil health
- Protect water and air quality

Who will write it?

You have two options:

1. Take UVM Extension's winter class and write it yourself! The instructors are registered TSPs and will certify the plan you write. Not only will you learn the tools to write and update your NMP, you will learn the basic science of soil health, crop needs, and nutrient management. For more information, contact UVM Extension at 802-524-6501, ext. 432.
2. Hire a private TSP. Some work with fertilizer dealers and some are independent. For a list of registered TSPs, visit techreg.sc.gov.usda.gov



Standards

Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) must meet the standards set by VT Required Agricultural Practices and the USDA-NRCS. Only professionals registered with NRCS have the authority to certify that an NMP meets these standards. These registered professionals are called Technical Service Providers (TSPs).

What will I need?

- A Land Treatment Plan to reduce erosion and protect water quality.
- Current (<3 yrs old) soil tests
- Current (this season) manure tests

If you take the UVM class, contact your local USDA Service Center to get started with these necessary class prerequisites.

If you hire a TSP, they can collect this information as they create your NMP.

How much will it cost?

If you take the UVM class, the tuition and software are \$800. Lab fees for soil samples are \$15 per field (20 acre maximum) and \$40 per manure sample. You can take the samples yourself, or your local Conservation District or UVM Extension staff may be able to take soil samples for you.

If you hire a TSP, total charges vary anywhere between \$1,000 and \$6,000 depending on the size of your farm.



How will I pay for it?

You have three options:

1. NRCS' EQIP provides financial assistance to write NMPs, either by taking the class or hiring a TSP. Contracts in 2017 ranged from \$1,700 to \$5,800.
2. The Conservation Districts, via an NRCS Regional Conservation agreement, can cover the costs for you to take the UVM class and provide personalized, ongoing assistance including soil sampling.
3. You can use your own money. Hiring a TSP to write your NMP is simple. You can also privately fund enrollment in the UVM class, but it may be difficult to do the preparatory work on your own. Check at your local NRCS office before the class to see if staff have capacity to help you with soil and manure sampling and a Land Treatment Plan.



Requirement

NMPs are required for all farms in Vermont with more than 50 acres in annual crops or that have a certain number of animals, (e.g. 50 mature dairy cows.) See the Agency of Ag's Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) at agriculture.vermont.gov/rap for more information on this state requirement.



What records should I keep?

Vermont requires that Small Farms **retain nutrient application records for five years**, including date, field location, amount and source of nutrient, and the weather at time of application. MFOs and LFOs have additional requirements.

UVM's goCrop™ software is a good tool for record-keeping (\$250 per year). The Agency of Agriculture also provides complimentary paper booklets. Call 802-828-2431 to have one mailed to you.

Get started now!

For any grant-funded option start by contacting your local USDA Service Center or Conservation District:

St. Albans: 802-527-1296

Morrisville: 802-888-4935

Newport: 802-334-6090

Brunswick: 802-424-5353

St. Johnsbury: 802-748-2641

Williston: 802-288-8155

Berlin: 802-828-4493

White River Junction: 802-295-7942

Middlebury: 802-388-6748

Rutland: 802-775-8034

Poultney: 802-287-8339

Bennington: 802-442-2275

Brattleboro: 802-689-3037

To hire a TSP independently, go to techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov for a list of registered providers.

For more information on the UVM NMP Class or to enroll, contact the UVM Extension St. Albans office at 802-524-6501, ext. 432.

Writing and Funding your Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)

