



Partial and Total Nutrient Applications Prior to Plan Development

Overview

Development of a “back written” plan or a plan which is developed after all nutrients have been applied to a field is considered a major violation by Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) standards and can result in disciplinary action. However, MDA is of the opinion that recommendations for part of a farm or part of crops’ nutrient requirements are better than no recommendations at all. MDA endorsed the following process to provide some measure of information on appropriate crop nutrient recommendations while safeguarding the nutrient management consultant from censure.

Writing plans considering partial and/or total nutrient applications made prior to plan development should NOT become common practice. Advisors should only agree to take on more clients if they have capacity to do so. At the point where each advisor reaches his/her capacity, additional requests for plan development should be respectfully declined.

Farmers risk a fine when nutrient applications are made without a plan.

Partial Plans

Introduction Partial plans are written in situations where some fields have received all of the intended nutrients but other fields have not. Recommendations may be provided for fields where nutrients have not been applied.

Recommendations are not provided for those fields that have received the total intended nutrient application for the planning year.

Requirements MDA requires the inclusion of a table in the cover letter that documents the field IDs, acres, crops, fertilizer application made, manure application rate and manure-related nutrients for each field where all the intended nutrients have been applied.

NuMan The field, crop, and manure analysis and application rate are entered into NuMan and recommendations are generated. **Recommendations are not printed** when all the intended nutrients have been applied. However, the pounds of nutrients associated with the manure application rate are entered into a table (see example below). These fields are still shown on maps and on the field information sheet.

Solution The simplest way to deal with this situation is to add a new paragraph heading on the cover sheet and include the required table. An example of the table follows.

Total Application of Nutrients Prior To Plan Development

Fields	Acres	Crop	Fertilizer Applied	Manure Applied	Manure Nutrient Applied (pounds N, P ₂ O ₅ , K ₂ O per acre)
Bryan-1	17.3	corn grain	30 lb N	15 T/A beef	130-244-327
Bryan-2	8.5	corn grain	30 lb N	15 T/A beef	130-244-327

Also, acknowledge the partial plan situation in the last sentence of the brief description paragraph on the cover sheet.

For the partial plan situation, the following would be appropriate:

Manure and fertilizer applications had been completed on corn fields Bryan-1 and Bryan-2 prior to plan development. In the future, it is imperative that information for plan development be provided in a timely manner so a nutrient management plan is in hand prior to any nutrient application.

Partial Application

Introduction Plans for partial application are written in situations where some, but not all, of the recommended nutrients have been applied prior to plan development. Recommendations are given; however, the recommendation sheets are annotated to show what has already been applied.

Requirements In a situation where green-up N on hay fields or small grain crops or a pre-set rate of manure was applied on corn fields prior to having a nutrient management plan, the applications must be documented during the client interview. The process for adjusting the nutrient recommendations in the plan to reflect these applications is described below.

Solution Adjustments are made on the recommendation sheet to show what has already been applied based on a timely communication with the client.

Also, acknowledge the partial application situation in the last sentence of the brief description paragraph on the cover sheet.

For one partial rec-plan situation, the following would be appropriate:

Green-up application of nitrogen on hay fields x, y and z has already been applied prior to plan development.

Example Mr. Partial operates the Bryan Farm, which consists of 6 fields; 2 each of corn (Fields 1 & 2), soybeans (Fields 3 & 4) and hay (Fields 5 & 6). When he came to the UME office on May 1 to seek a plan, he had already fertilized (manure and starter N) and planted his corn and put 50 pounds per acre of N on his hay fields. This is a partial plan situation as we can only provide recs for 4 of his 6 fields. Of the 4 fields for which we can legitimately provide recommendations, 2 have already received part of the total nutrient recommendation so those fields are partial application fields.

- a) Note all fields on the Field Information Sheet (page 4).
 - b) Information for the 2 fields where all nutrients have already been applied is shown in a table on the cover sheet, like the example on page 2.
 - c) See the annotation on the rec sheet (page 5) for the partial application fields. The total N recommendation has been adjusted for the N application the client has already made. The green-up application is crossed through as that opportunity has passed.
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