



Agriculture Nutrient Management Program

Direct Pay Guidance:

Exceptions for Writing 1-Year Plans



The Direct Pay program generally requires that private planners submit plans written for a duration of 3-years. However, there are certain exceptions when 1-year plans can be submitted. These exceptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis, and prior approval is needed before a 1-year plan can be submitted.

Note that the Direct Pay contract lasts for a 3-year duration, regardless of whether the submitted plan is for 1 or for 3 years. Failure to submit a revised plan in years 2 or 3 of the contract will result in the Direct Pay contract being terminated.

A planner can request that a 1-year plan be submitted for Direct Pay under the following conditions:

1. The NM plan must be written in the Conservation Application Suite (CAS) Nutrient Management Module.
2. The planner expects that either soil tests and/or crop rotations will be updated annually throughout the 3-year lifespan of the Direct Pay contract. This expectation should be based on the producers' stated intentions.
3. Organic nutrient sources must not be utilized anywhere in the NM plan- the producer can only be utilizing commercial fertilizer.
4. The NM plan cannot make recommendations that Phosphorous and Potassium applications are balanced across multiple years. Note- if additional P and K are being applied to a small grain crop to balance the nutrient needs for the subsequent double-cropped soybean crop, the NM plan should be extended to 1.5 years to show the balance zeroing out in the next season.
5. "Previous Conditions" for crops must be included in each 1-year revised plan to show continuity in cropping history from the previous season, and to ensure that any Nitrogen residual credits from previous legume crops are allocated appropriately.

If all conditions are applicable, the private planner can contact DCR for approval to submit 1-year plans annually as part of their Direct Pay contract.

All other guidance for participation in the Direct Pay program remains valid.

Contacts for the Direct Pay program can be found under the "Contacts" tab at DCR's Direct Pay website:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmdirectpay>.

The Enhanced Nutrient Management Best Management Practices form can be found at:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/form/DCR199-244a.pdf>.