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In the Know with Virginia Nutrient Management

Welcome to our Newsletter

Hello everyone and welcome to our newsletter! The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) Nutrient Management Program wants to keep all Virginia Certificated Nutrient Management Planners informed and up-to-date with the program. To assist with this venture, we will be publishing and emailing out periodic newsletters with changes to the program, plan writing tips, educational events, and more. Back issues will be stored online for reference. We look forward to starting this new journey and hope you find these newsletters informative and helpful with your plan writing.

Nutrient Management Planner Input

Is there something you would like to discuss about the DCR Nutrient Management Program, are there topics of nutrient management plan writing that you would like more details on, or do you have information that you would like to share with other planners for future newsletters? If so, we want to hear them! Please email any inquiries to Steph Dawley at stephanie.dawley@dcr.virginia.gov.



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Thank YOU!

Thank you for being a certified nutrient management planner. We appreciate the work you do to help the farmers of Virginia obtain their best yields while protecting the waters of the Commonwealth.



CEUs

Is there a field day you have heard about that you think would be educational regarding nutrient management? A webinar on soil health that sounds appealing? Please let us know. We try to stay abreast of field days, conferences, and outreach events, but undoubtedly miss many. If there is an event you think might be eligible for continuing education credit please contact Steph Dawley. CEUs courses can be hosted by a variety of partnering agencies and do not have to be in VA. CEUs have been approved in NC, MD, DE, and other states.

Updated Approved Soils Lab

The list of Approved Soil Labs for Nutrient Management Plan Writing has been updated. There are now 16 approved labs.

The recently added labs are: Clemson Agricultural Services Laboratory*, Southeastern Agriculture Laboratory, and Waters Agriculture Laboratory, Inc– Ken-

tucky.

If there is a lab you would like considered for approval please contact Steph Dawley.

*Soil tests sent to Clemson for analysis cost \$6/sample. DCR only covers manure analysis costs.

DCR Website Updates

We have been working hard at keeping our website up-to-date.

One of the biggest pushes has been keeping our CEU page current. Please visit the website at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmtrain#conted> to see the most current list of approved CEUs.

The current Approved Soil Soils Lab list can always be found at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/document/nmlablist.pdf>.

Other links that maybe of interest are the information pages on the DCR Poultry Litter Transport Program, <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmlitter>, and the DCR Direct Pay Program, <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmdirectpay>.

This newsletter, and all future copies, will be posted under the planner resource tab which can be found at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmplnr>.

Continued improvements will be made to the site so that it is a resource for your needs as a nutrient management planner.



Online Nutrient Management Plan Writing Module

The DCR's DSWC Nutrient Management Program and Data Team have been working to create a web-based nutrient management plan writing platform. The "Module" has been used by DCR Nutrient Management Specialists, and is now being opened up to all certified nutrient management plan writers. If you would be interested in participating in the new system, or have any questions, please contact Steph Dawley.

To gain access to the Conservation Application Suite (CAS) that houses the Plan Writing Module, you first must take a brief webinar (45 mins) on internet and computer security, and complete a CAS request access form. Once the requirements have been completed your login credentials will be created. They will differ from your NutMan login.

Online Module Feature Highlights

The module includes several new features to assist with the plan writing process. These are just two features that minimize data entry and assist with acquiring soil data:

Mapping is a big portion of the platform. You have the ability to draw out fields that automatically pull soil data from SSURGO into your plan. If you have mapped fields in ArcGIS, or a similar platform, you are able to import those files. A video tutorial is available for this process at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmplnr>.

If you use Waypoint as a soil testing lab, and obtain a .csv file of the results, you can upload the results into the module, and all soil test analysis data entry will be automated. As more .csv files are obtained from approved labs, this functionality will be expanded.

Permitted Plan Reminders

Please have all plans that require permits (biosolids, wastewater, industrial residual, VPA, and CAFO) submitted to the DCR in a timely manner for their permitting schedule. Contact your farmers or DEQ agents with questions regarding permit requirements.

For DCR review of biosolid, wastewater or industrial plans contact Nick Moody at nicholas.moody@dcr.virginia.gov
For Reviews of VPA or CAFO plans contact Seth Mullins at seth.mullins@dcr.virginia.gov.

Clemson Manure Samples

A reminder regarding manure analysis submittals. Farmers can submit up to two (2) samples per year to Clemson using the DCR form. End-users of poultry litter should receive an analysis from the source. An additional analysis would not be required. Please contact Seth Mullins with questions or for a copy of the DCR form.

Direct Pay Staff

Joe Tesauro, Nutrient Management Specialist Senior– Direct Pay.

Joe is a recent addition to the DCR Direct Pay Team. He manages technical reviews of plans and plan writing assistance. We are excited for Joe to join the team.

If you have questions on the plan review process please contact Joe Tesauro at

joe.tesauro1@dcr.virginia.gov.

Pamela Capps, Nutrient Management Admin Support.

Pamela has been with the DCR over 10 years and has been with Direct Pay since the beginning. She manages all financial and administrative portions. The program would not be what it is without Pamela!

If you have any questions on farmer consent forms, plan submission dates, or other administrative forms please contact Pamela Capps at pamela.capps@dcr.virginia.gov

Direct Pay Plan Content

A few reminders and updates to components of plans required for submittal for DCR Direct Pay:

- When submitting a plan, please send a complete plan (either printed or in a .pdf or other electronic document form) with the following: Signed Cover Page, Narrative, Balance Sheet, Soil Tests Summary, Productivity Report, Manure Summary (if applicable), and Maps.
- Maps must include necessary labels: environmentally sensitive sites, farm location and boundary, field name or number and acreage, manure or waste storages, setbacks for nonapplication on manures and biosolids, and intermittent and perennial stream buffers. More information can be found in the VA nutrient Management Regulations available at this link: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency50/chapter85/section130/>
- When grouping fields together by similar soil productivity levels /soil fertility levels/environmentally sensitive site features, and the total acreage is over 50 acres, please include a statement in the plan narrative explaining testing methodology.
- When soil tests/field size are greater than 100 acres, please include a narrative statement and also attach soil tests for those fields (grid samples or composite sample pages).

If you have an interest in participating in Direct Pay, and would like more program information contact Stephanie Dawley. Direct Pay is a voluntary program created to help get more nutrient management planning on the ground.

Please make sure you have a non-work related email on file with the DCR! Your certification is attached to YOU, not your work. If you leave your current place of employment and only have that email on file it is difficult for us to keep in touch regarding your certification. Please contact Susan Jones at Susan.Jones@dcr.virginia.gov to check on or update your email status.