

Agriculture Nutrient Management Program

Direct Pay Newsletter

Spring 2025



PY 26 DIRECT PAY COVERAGE AREA

Currently acres outside the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are only eligible for Direct Pay if the nutrient management plan is associated with either a DCR Resource Management Plan or plans written for the DCRs Poultry Litter Transport Incentive Program. Beginning July 1, 2025, the start of Program Year 26, the Direct Pay Program will be open to **ALL** acres in Virginia. More information will be sent out as we get closer to PY26.

ONE YEAR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT 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. Attached to this newsletter is the full guidance document on the conditions that qualify a plan to be written for 1-year. 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.

SUBMIT INVOICES WITHIN 60 DAYS

Please submit all invoices to the Pamela at vanmplnr@dcr.virginia.gov within 60 days of your plan approval. Contracts that have not been closed out after this timeframe will be canceled for that year.

FILLING OUT FARMER CONSENT FORMS

The most current version of the Farmer Consent form is available [here](#). This is a fillable pdf form, which is the preferred method to submit the form in. To best utilize the fillable portion, download a fresh copy to your computer. Use that

blank copy as a template for every time you need to complete a form, and then save the completed form to your files for the individual producer. If you choose to fill out the consent form by hand, handwriting must be legible.

DIRECT PAY DIRECTORY

A directory for planners wanting to advertise their services within DCR's Direct Pay Program is on the [website](#). If you are not listed in the directory and wish to be, please fill out the form attached to this newsletter. Return it to vanmplnr@dcr.virginia.gov by **Monday, March 31, 2025** and your information will be included in the next update.

ENHANCED PRACTICE ACRES AND VERIFICATION ACRES REMINDER

Each plan submitted to Direct Pay will need to be verified during either year two (2) or year three (3) of the plan lifespan. Current verification forms can be found on the [website](#).

There is also a form to capture Enhanced Nutrient Management Acres, which capture vital data for DCR's nutrient management reporting. Enhanced acres have practices "above and beyond" a standard nutrient management plan. They can be reported on in both year two (2) AND three (3) in the plan. The Enhanced Acres form can be found [here](#).



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>.

DCR Nutrient Management Direct Pay Plan Development

For Hire List to be Published on DCR Website



If you would like to be included in the directory, please indicate so in the box below and complete the information below.

I want to be listed in this directory as an active plan writer at this time.

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____

Print Full Name: _____

Name:	
Business Name (if applicable):	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Best time to call:	
E-Mail Address:	
Area: (geographic region or counties)	