



Nutrient Management Plan Special Conditions for Poultry Litter End-Users 2023

The following management practices should be utilized for operations utilizing poultry litter and not requiring a VPA or VPDES permit.

1. Soil samples for litter application fields shall be analyzed at least once every three (3) years for pH, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium in order to maximize the efficient utilization of nutrients. Soil sampling core depth should be from 0-4 inches for land which has not been tilled within the past three (3) years, or 0-6 inches for land that has been tilled within the past three (3) years. Soil pH should be maintained at appropriate agronomic levels to promote optimum crop growth and nutrient utilization.
2. Soil test analysis will be performed by one of the laboratories listed below. Soil phosphorus levels must be determined using the Mehlich I or Mehlich III procedure.
 - A list of all approved laboratories can be found at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/document/nmlablist.pdf>.
3. Soil nitrate test for litter application fields planted in corn or small grain is recommended. A representative soil sample of each field should be comprised of cores randomly sampled throughout the field at the time appropriate for that crop. Soil sampling core depth should be 12 inches for corn and 6 inches for small grain.
4. Representative litter samples shall be analyzed at a minimum of once every three (3) years for the following: total nitrogen or total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), ammonium nitrogen, total phosphorus, total potassium, calcium, magnesium, and percent (%) moisture. All manure analyses shall be performed using laboratory methods consistent with *Recommended Methods of Manure Analysis*, publication A3769, University of Wisconsin, 2003 or other methods approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Litter analysis results should be used to determine actual litter application rates that do not exceed the nitrogen and phosphorus application rates specified in the nutrient management plan. If analysis is unknown at the time the NMP is written, an average litter analysis shown in Table 8-4 in the *Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria, Revised July 2014*, may be used to develop the nutrient management plan.
5. All crops should be planted and harvested in a timely manner using commercially acceptable management practices.
6. Make litter applications at or near planting or to existing actively growing crops to ensure that nutrients are properly utilized. Utilize the spreading schedule in #17 of this document to determine appropriate litter application times and rates. Additional commercial fertilizer applications (especially nitrogen) should be made as a split application separate from the litter application.

7. For permanent hay or pasture, an adequate stand of hay and/or pasture crop species should be established prior to land application of litter. Commercially acceptable stands of the listed species should be maintained, and other weeds and grasses controlled. All hay crops should be harvested in a timely and regular manner, removed from fields, and utilized for a suitable purpose.
8. Litter should be applied to application sites in a uniform manner.
9. Do not spread litter within the following setback areas:
 - 100 feet from wells or springs
 - 100 feet from surface water without a permanent vegetated buffer*
 - 35 feet from surface water with a permanent vegetated buffer*
 - 50 feet from limestone outcroppings
 - 25 feet from other rock outcroppings
 - 200 feet from occupied dwellings (unless the occupant signs a waiver of the buffer zone)
 - Litter shall not be applied in such a manner that it would discharge to sinkholes that may exist in the area.

* A vegetated buffer is a permanent strip of dense vegetation established parallel to the contours of and perpendicular to the dominant slope of the field.
10. Do not spread litter on soils that are saturated or ice or snow-covered in order to avoid manure runoff from application fields. Dry poultry waste may be applied to frozen ground within the times indicated by the spreading schedule only under the following conditions:
 - Slopes are not greater than 6%
 - A minimum of a 200 foot vegetative or adequate crop residue buffer is maintained between the application area and all surface water courses
 - Only those soils characterized by USDA as “well drained” with good infiltration are used, **AND**
 - At least 60% uniform cover by vegetation or crop residue is present.
11. For odor control and to reduce drift, avoid spreading on windy days.
12. Litter storage must be in accordance with the requirements of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality *Fact Sheet: Requirements for Poultry Litter Use and Storage (eff. 2/2021)*.
13. Spreader calibration is extremely critical to ensure proper application rates. Calibration of equipment or verification of actual equipment application rates should occur at a minimum of once per year or when litter consistency is obviously different.
14. Nutrient management plans that contain fields in which row crops will be grown will be revised at least once every three (3) years. Nutrient management plans that contain only hay or pasture fields will be revised at least once every five (5) years. Any such plan revisions will be submitted to DCR for review.
15. This nutrient management plan should be amended or modified if additional imported manure, biosolids, or industrial waste that was not identified in the existing plan is applied to fields under the control of the operator; available land area for the utilization of litter decreases below the level necessary to utilize litter in the plan; and/or litter application fields have Mehlich I soil phosphorus levels at or above 55ppm (110 lbs/acre) where either cropping systems, rotations, or fields are changed.
16. These conditions do not override any more restrictive plan requirements if required by other specific legislative, regulatory or incentive programs which apply to a specific operator.

17. Litter spreading schedule:

POULTRY LITTER SPREADING SCHEDULE

CROP	Notes
Alfalfa	Apply poultry litter at the rates and times specified in the nutrient management plan.
Bermudagrass	Application may be made between April 1 and September 15. After July 1 application rates may not exceed 50% of the total annual nitrogen recommendation.
Corn	Poultry litter applications may not be made earlier than 30 days prior to planting on environmentally sensitive sites. On fields <u>not listed as environmentally sensitive</u> , poultry litter applications may not occur more than 60 days prior to spring planting.
Hay or Pasture (cool-season perennial)	Between September 1 and March 1 application rates may not exceed 50% of the total annual nitrogen recommendation (hay fields only). Consult with your nutrient management plan writer for specific requirements.
Sorghum/Millet	Poultry litter applications will not be made earlier than 30 days prior to planting on environmentally sensitive sites. On fields <u>not listed as environmentally sensitive</u> , poultry litter applications will not occur more than 60 days prior to spring planting.
Soybeans	Poultry litter applications will not be made earlier than 30 days prior to planting on environmentally sensitive sites. On fields <u>not listed as environmentally sensitive</u> , poultry litter applications will not occur more than 60 days prior to spring planting.
Small Grains	Applications may be made at planting, in mid-winter, and in late winter. Consult with your nutrient management plan writer for specific timing and other requirements.