



"I think I learned more about soil and what's required to grow things in those two days than in my entire sophomore biology class... I walked away with a better understanding of the need for nutrient management and the knowledge to improve my farm's pasture."

—William Boniface, General Manager and Partner, Bonita Farm

Maryland's Nutrient Management Law

The Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 (WQIA) requires all farmers grossing \$2,500 a year or more or livestock producers with 8,000 pounds or more of live animal weight to run their operations using a nutrient management plan that addresses both nitrogen and phosphorus inputs. The requirement applies to all agricultural land used to produce plants, food, feed, fiber, animals or other agricultural products. Farmers are required to update their nutrient management plans and take new soil samples a minimum of once every three years. In addition, an Annual Implementation Report describing how farmers implemented their nutrient management plans must be filed with MDA by March 1 of each year. The one-page form is available from MDA regional nutrient management offices or online at www.mda.state.md.us. Producers who fail to comply with the law face penalties and fines.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Program Regional Offices

**Region 1:
Allegany, Garrett
and Washington
counties**
3 Pershing Street,
Room 100
Cumberland, MD
21502
301-722-9193

**Region 2:
Carroll, Frederick,
Howard and
Montgomery
counties**
92 Thomas Johnson
Drive, Suite 110
Frederick, MD 21702
301-694-9290,
ext. 136 or ext. 137

**Region 3:
Anne Arundel,
Calvert, Charles,
Prince George's
and St. Mary's
counties**
50 Harry S. Truman
Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-5959

**Region 4:
Baltimore, Cecil,
Harford and Kent
counties**
19 Newport Drive,
Suite 106
Forest Hill, MD 21050
410-838-6181

**Region 5:
Caroline, Dorchester,
Queen Anne's and
Talbot counties**
317 Carter Avenue,
Suite 100
Denton, MD 21629
410-479-4905
or 410-479-4929

**Region 6:
Somerset, Wicomico
and Worcester
counties**
27722 Nanticoke
Road, Unit #2
Salisbury, MD 21801
410-677-0802

For More Information

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Resource Conservation
Nutrient Management Program**
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-5959
www.mda.state.md.us



MAKING NUTRIENT
MANAGEMENT WORK
IN MARYLAND



MARYLAND'S FARMER TRAINING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

In the time it
takes to clean the
combine, you
could become
certified to write
your own Nutrient
Management Plan.



Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Earl F. Hance
Secretary

Mary Ellen Setting
Deputy Secretary

FARMER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Producers understand their own operations and needs better than anyone. So, it makes good sense for farmers to become certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to write their own nutrient management plans—a **process that takes just two days**. MDA, in partnership with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, has developed specialized Farmer Training and Certification workshops for producers who want to become certified to develop their own nutrient management plans and get the most from this important management tool.

There are many benefits to becoming certified. The Farmer Training and Certification Program makes it easier and less costly to comply with Maryland's nutrient management law. The program also provides valuable insight and knowledge into the latest research findings and management techniques aimed at improving production, increasing yields, and maximizing nutrient efficiency.

How it Works

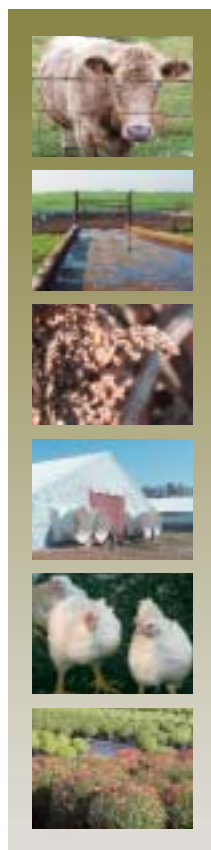
Farmers interested in becoming certified to write their own nutrient management plans will need to attend a two-day workshop. The first day covers the fundamentals of nutrient management planning and participants are given the opportunity to work through a model plan. Take home study materials and reference guides are provided in order to help



farmers prepare for the open book nutrient management certification exam.

During a second day—scheduled within four weeks of the initial training session—participants take an open book certification exam. After passing the exam, farmers work with a Cooperative Extension expert to develop a nutrient management plan for their operations.

Farmers who pass the exam and successfully complete their own nutrient management plans will be certified by MDA. Certified farmers are required to attend six hours of continuing education classes once every three years in order to remain eligible to update and revise their plans. Importantly, the certification workshop and continuing education classes fulfill the applicator training requirement for farmers who apply nutrients to 10 or more acres of cropland. Therefore, there is no need to attend an applicator training course once every three years.



Choose the Workshop That's Right for You

Farmer Training and Certification classes geared toward specific types of operations are offered regionally throughout the state during the fall and winter. Specific types of operations covered include:

- Pasture-Based Operations
- Crop Operations Using Fertilizer and Manure
- Crop Operations Using Commercial Fertilizer Only
- Poultry Operations with Cropland
- Poultry Operations with No Cropland
- Nursery and Greenhouse Operations

Getting Started

Contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture or your local Cooperative Extension office for a list of training sessions. A list of regional contacts is located on the back of this brochure. Training classes are listed on MDA's web site at www.mda.state.md.us. Scroll down the left column to "nutrient management" and click on "training classes." Register for the class that most closely describes your operation. During the session farmers will develop a nutrient management plan for their operation that meets MDA requirements. In order to develop a plan, farmers should bring the following information with them to the workshop:

- Farm map or sketch of the operation
- Soil test results that are less than two years old
- Recent manure analysis (if manure is applied to the land)

Remember, your county Extension office can assist you in obtaining this information.

Certification Fee

A \$20 certification fee is required at the time of application. The fee includes all materials. There are no additional fees for retaking the exam or renewing the certificate. Directions and an agenda will be sent with confirmation letters to all registrants.

