

CONSUMER

INFORMATION SHEET

CIS-2

05/07/09

You and The Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Nutrient Management

~ 2008 Nutrient Management Annual Report for the University of Maryland

The University of Maryland Extension's (MCE) Agricultural Nutrient Management Program, which is funded by Maryland Department of Agriculture, (MDA) focuses on reducing pollution in the Chesapeake Bay from plant nutrients applied to cropland. The Program provides (1) nutrient management planning services to Maryland farmers through a network of Nutrient Management Advisors located in all county Extension offices and (2) continuing education and technical support to certified Nutrient Management Advisors and certified farm operators via state and regional nutrient management specialists. For more information on the agricultural nutrient management program, visit www.anrnp.urnd.edu.

2008 Priorities

Nutrient management planning priorities for the agricultural nutrient management program are stated in a formal agreement between MDA and the University of Maryland. The priorities for FY 2008 were as follows:

1. Farmers with pollution problems or those referred as non-compliant by MDA through an enforcement procedure;
2. Farmers participating in the Manure Transport Project and those with a Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program application pending for animal waste storage or a poultry mortality composter;
3. Updating nutrient management plans for existing clientele with an expired plan developed by MCE nutrient management advisors; and
4. First come, first serve for any other farmer who must comply with the Water Quality Improvement Act.

Progress and Achievements

- Over 620 new nutrient management plans were written for 322 Maryland producers totaling over 37,000 acres. Over 4,190 plans were updated for 1,661 clients totaling approximately 308,500 acres.
- Plans for 74 manure transport project clients were written, which allowed for the transport of manure to over 15,800 acres.
- The Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test, (PSNT) was performed for 118 producers totaling over 13,000 acres. This resulted in an estimated reduction of over 90,600 pounds (or approximately 7 pounds per acre) of nitrogen applied to Maryland cornfields.
- The Phosphorus Site Index was performed for 384 clients on 2,420 fields. Sixty percent (60%) of the fields (1,454 fields) scored "Low," meaning fertilizer P starter and manure utilization was not restricted. Only 2 percent (42 fields) scored "Very High"; therefore, all phosphorus fertilizer and manure inputs were not allowed on these fields.
- Nutrient management advisors performed 161 yield checks and calibrated 22 manure spreaders.

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Photo by Wayne Gilchrest

Keeping the Bay Blue

FARMERS DO THEIR PART - **Fact or Fiction**

- Farmers apply as much fertilizer as they want to. - **Fiction**
- 98% of Maryland Farmers are in compliance with the Nutrient Management Law. - **Fact**
- There are 5,078 Nutrient Vouchers issued in the State which is a mandatory requirement for those applying nutrients on over 10 acres. - **Fact**
- Farmers are required to follow nutrient management recommendations, keep nutrient application records, & submit annual reports on the amount of nutrients applied. - **Fact**

YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR RESEARCH - BASED INFO.

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