

EQIP

Nutrient Management Options

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial payments to producers who implement nutrient management, which is applying the correct amount and form of plant nutrients for optimum yield and minimum impact on water quality. Payments range from \$2/acre to \$20/acre depending on what a producer includes in the nutrient management plan and EQIP contract.

Payments are offered for new plans as well as enhancements of previously applied 590 nutrient management plans. No fall applied nitrogen is allowed when selecting enhancements. If a producer wants to apply commercial N in the fall, the most he will receive is \$2/acre. Producers with previously applied nutrient management plans will need to apply all their commercial N in the spring and select enhancements to receive any payments.

EQIP offers payments through three basic categories:

A: Newly applied 590 Nutrient Management Plan,
 B: Previously applied Nutrient Management Plan (plus enhancements and NO COMMERCIAL FALL N APPLICATION ALLOWED), and

C: Conducting verified, replicated field strips of alternative nutrient management practices. This practice is a simple evaluation of 2 or more different management alternatives. Typical treatment strips are 1 to 2 planter widths. Paired comparison plots require a minimum of 5 repetitions to analyze data with confidence. The yields for each treatment and replication are then compared to the alternative treatment(s). Careful documentation of data is required. (Any producer can choose to enroll in Category C, even if already participating in A or B.)

Offered Enhancements

Enhancements, which offer a higher payment rate, are available for both category A and B. Following is a list of nutrient management plan enhancements available through EQIP:

1. Applying manure based on phosphorous levels when Phosphorus Index is low or very low.
2. Applying manure or commercial fertilizer at variable rates within a field, based on soil tests, OR using Site Specific Nutrient Applications through GPS/satellites and variable rate nutrient applications.
3. Planned use of the Late Spring Nitrate Test to evaluate N management according to ISU PM1714 AND document how management decisions were made.

4. Using legumes, other than soybeans, in crop rotation.
5. Planting cover crops
6. Using fall stalk tests to evaluate nitrogen and make necessary adjustments to application rates.
7. Utilizing in-season plant tissue tests and make necessary adjustments to application rates.
8. Nitrogen is not applied to pastures until after July 15, if at all.
9. Using split application when applying more than 60 pounds of nitrogen to a pasture with more than 30 percent legumes.
10. Using a slow release nitrogen, like a polymer coated urea.
11. Injecting manure using low disturbance with a minimum spacing of 30 inches, without covering disks.

Nutrient Mgt Option	Standard Rate/Acre	Underserved Rate/Acre
A	\$2	\$3.19
A + 2 enhancements	\$11	\$19.75
A + 4 enhancements	\$17	\$30.50
B + 2 enhancements	\$9.25	\$16.50
B + 4 enhancements	\$15.25	\$27.25
C	\$20	\$36

* Higher payment rates are offered for USDA Historically Underserved customers (Beginning Farmer, Limited Resource or Socially Disadvantaged) as well as producers in an MRBI watershed. Nutrient Management is capped for a lifetime payment of \$16,000/participant and \$24,000/historically underserved participant.

Spring Nitrogen Application Requirement

This requirement also applies to the nitrogen included in phosphorous products like monoammonium phosphate (MAP) and diammonium phosphate (DAP). If these phosphorous products are applied in the fall, the producer is not eligible for more than \$2/acre. Manure-associated N may be fall applied.

For more information

Visit your local USDA-NRCS office.