



Nitrogen Management

Crop Nutrient Plan - Minimum Requirements

The goal of a Crop Nutrient Plan is to balance the agronomic requirements of a cropping system against the nutrients already present in the soil and any nutrient inputs. For the purposes of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), the plan is intended to optimize the amount of fertilizer needed to obtain the projected yield, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the system by limiting the risks of excess fertilizer, particularly nitrogen. **Plans must address, at a minimum, the nitrogen needs for the growing season identified in the OFCAF project application.**

A Crop Nutrient Plan requires the support of a qualified professional (e.g., nutrient management specialist, Certified Crop Advisor, Professional Agrologist, etc.) to conduct an assessment and develop a written plan. If cost-share is being applied for to support costs of developing a Crop Nutrient Plan, the plan must be prepared by a qualified third-party consultant, who must be at arm's length from the applicant. Plans cannot be cost-shared on if they are prepared by the applicant, his or her business partners, and/or their siblings or parents, through blood or marriage.

To meet the eligibility requirements for the OFCAF cost-share program, a Crop Nutrient Plan must meet these minimum requirements:

- The identity of the qualified party who prepared the letter, including name, designation (if the party is a CCA, include the CCA#), and signature.
- List of crops grown by field, with the projected yield and planned tillage (e.g., reduced tillage, no till, etc.), including use of any cover crops
- Soil sample results, dated within the previous five (5) years, reported by field, with a minimum of one (1) composite sample taken that aligns with standard practices. Analysis must include pH, phosphorus (sodium bicarbonate), and potassium (ammonium acetate)
- From at least the most recent application of nutrients: types of applied nutrients (e.g., manure, synthetic fertilizer, etc.), with corresponding application methods (e.g., side dress, broadcast, etc.), application rates, and application timing/dates
- For at least the next application of nutrients: types of applied nutrients (e.g., manure, synthetic fertilizer, etc.), with corresponding application methods (e.g., side dress, broadcast, etc.), application rates, and application timing/dates
- For nutrient applications, considerations should be shown for projected yields and crop removal rates, nitrogen credits from previous crops (e.g., previously established

forage or legume crops), and nutrient carryover from previously applied sources (e.g., manure, synthetic fertilizer, etc.)

The plan may also contain additional information, such as:

- Recommendations related to the use of specific products/practices
- Crop information/soil conditions such as crop emergence, uniformity of growth, planting, and harvest dates of crops
- Livestock-related information for manure nutrient production/management, if appropriate
- Contingency planning and soil conservation practices recommended for the farm fields

HELPFUL RESOURCES

AgriSuite

The AgriSuite system developed by OMAFRA is freely available and supports the preparation of regulatory and non-regulatory plans; its field management planning tool can be used to input and report on many of the minimum requirements of a Crop Nutrient Plan.

<https://agrisuite.omafra.gov.on.ca/>

AgMaps Tutorials

If you need help using Google Maps or AgMaps, please contact your local OSCIA Field Staff for free assistance. Click here for contact information. Tutorials are available at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/gis/agatlas-help.htm>

Sample Site Sketch:

