

Program Description

Few people outside of active agriculture can fully understand the multiple responsibilities of managing a farm as well as you, the farmer. While agriculture is vital to Vermont's tourism industry, provides a fun place for schoolkids to visit, and is critical to the environment, it is also most importantly your business and your livelihood. Every decision you make needs to be compared against the time involved, the expense, and the value.

Regulatory pressure is increasing on the farming community to ensure that farms are not contributing to water quality problems with manure and fertilizer runoff. Nutrient management plans, and CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) are examples of ways to evaluate and minimize your farm's possible impact.

But maybe that's not right for you, right now.

Do you want to:

- Be responsible about the management of the manure and fertilizers on your farm?
- Receive some free, confidential assistance to help you evaluate potential impacts to water quality?
- Find out where you might be able to save money on purchased fertilizer through better nutrient allocation?
- Visit with knowledgeable, trusted District employees who can help you find any additional resources that can help you?

What might be right is the new *Growing with You Program* through the SVNMP.

While funds last, the **SVNMP is offering a free service to farmers** to receive soil testing, P-index and RUSLE2 analyses on up to five fields on your farm.

1. **Soil tests**—tell you what's there already, and helps you know what is available to the crop you are planting there.
2. **P-index**—will assess the potential for phosphorus runoff from individual fields based on soil and field characteristics and on management practices
3. **RUSLE2**—determines erosion that exists, the potential for soil loss, and evaluates soil quality and organic matter.

KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

1. Soil Tests
2. Phosphorus Index
3. RUSLE 2 Analysis

Completely Confidential

These tests will provide information about your nutrient management and determines where there might be nutrient excess (thereby decreasing your need for purchased fertilizer). In consultation with the SVNMP, we'll discuss any changes such as crop rotations or tillage methods or timing that could help your crop management. If you choose to make any changes, we'll help you find resources to help.

The purpose of this program is not to minimize the importance of full nutrient management plans, and hopefully you will decide that further planning will be helpful to you. If so, we will help you find funding and assistance to complete a nutrient management plan. However, there is no obligation to do so through this program.

Our goal is to help you learn ways to manage nutrients in a cost-effective, time-sensitive and environmentally appropriate manner!

I am interested in receiving further information about the services of the Southern Vermont Nutrient Management Program.

Please contact me at :

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Please call to schedule an visit immediately

_____ I can't participate now, but would appreciate further information.

Mail to : PMNRCD, PO Box 209, Poultney, VT 05764



“These are valuable tools—they give us information to pass on to a farmer about which fields could handle excess manure, while minimizing any adverse water quality effects. ... and can potentially save farmers money”

*Jennifer Alexander
SVNMP Educator*

“While I can see that nutrient management plans are probably pretty helpful to a lot of people, I know I don’t have the time to put into it right now, but I do want to have a better idea of where my nutrients are going. I don’t want to waste them, anymore than I want them in the water, so a simple few tests like this with some help might be good for me”.

Farmer, Rutland County

Sponsored by the following
Conservation Districts:

- Bennington
- Ottauquechee
- Poultney-Mettowee
- Rutland
- White River
- Windham
- Winooski

Southern Vermont

Nutrient Management
Program



Growing with you!

*A new project from the
Southern Vermont
Nutrient Management Program*

Southern Vermont Nutrient Management Program
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