

POLICIES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR LATE WINTER SPLIT  
APPLICATION OF NITROGEN ON SMALL GRAINS  
DCR Specifications for No. NM-4

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Late Winter Split Application of Nitrogen on Small Grains practice, that are applicable to all contracts, entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

Late winter split application of nitrogen on small grain consists of applying nitrogen at this time of year in two increments based on the progression of growth of the small grain crop.

Applying nitrogen based on the progression of growth of the small grain crop in the late winter minimizes the amount lost through leaching and run off.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Eligibility:

- i. Producers must be fully implementing a current nutrient management plan prepared and signed by a certified nutrient management planner that specifies split applications of nitrogen as appropriate. The plan must be on file with the local SWCD. Cost-Share payments shall not be made until a current nutrient management plan is on file with the SWCD. SWCD staff should utilize the NMP maps, nutrient balance sheets, and summary sheets to confirm conservation practice implementation. A comparison between crop recommendations and in field conditions shall be used when certifying conservation practice compliance. The plan must include all agricultural production acres in the tract that contains the small grain acreage. A copy of the current nutrient management plan and the nutrient application field record sheet shall be maintained in the participant's practice folder.
- ii. The total number of small grain acres specified by the nutrient management plan to receive split nitrogen applications will determine the maximum acres to qualify, with payment being made only to those acres which actually received split nitrogen applications.
- iii. Eligibility for this practice is limited to the length of the plan recommending the split nitrogen application.
- iv. Farmer must sign-up prior to February 1 and provide written verification (such as a work order or bill) to the district within two weeks of the second application.

2. Practice Development
  - i. This cost-share practice is for the split application of late winter nitrogen applications to small grain in which each application must contain nitrogen as a component of the material applied.
  - ii. On fields that have organic sources of nitrogen applied during the crop year or in previous years, or if high residual nitrogen levels are suspected from a previous crop, fall nitrogen rates should be determined by a nitrate test.
  - iii. Late winter nitrogen to be applied to the small grain field must be determined by using the criteria contained in the *Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria, revised July 2014*.
  
3. Practice Implementation
  - i. To insure the impact of nitrogen to ground and surface waters is minimized in small grain production, at planting and midwinter nitrogen rates and application shall follow recommendations contained in the *Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria, revised July, 2014*.
  - ii. Compliance with this practice may be conducted by the SWCD or appropriate agency personnel throughout the life of the practice and failure to comply may result in forfeiture of cost-share funds.
  - iii. Sample collection for any soil nitrate tests in the fall, tissue tests, or tiller counts should be done by the plan developer or an employee of the plan developer, or the farmer.
  - iv. In lieu of tiller counts and tissue tests, as listed in the *Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria, revised July, 2014*, late winter split application of nitrogen must not exceed 40# of nitrogen for the first application and must not exceed 50# of nitrogen for the second application.
  - v. For late winter split application of nitrogen, the two applications must be at least 30 days apart with the first application no earlier than growth stage 25, with nitrogen rates determined based on tiller counts and tissues tests as explained in the *Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria revised July, 2014*.
  - iv. This is an annual practice.
  
4. In order to be eligible for cost-share or tax credit, nutrient management plans must be prepared by a certified planner who holds a current Nutrient Management Planner Certificate issued by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Nutrient Management Plans must be written to comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, (4 VAC 50-85-10 et seq.) and the criteria set forth in the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria, revised July 2014.

C. Rate(s)

1. As set forth by Virginia Code § 58.1-339.3 and §58.1-439.5, Virginia law currently provides a tax credit for implementation of certain BMP practices. The current tax credit rate, which is subject to change in accordance with the Code of Virginia, is 25% of the total eligible cost not to exceed \$17,500.00.

2. For participants who certify in writing (*see language on next page*) that they will not utilize the tax credit set forth above with regard to the implementation of this practice and who are not receiving payment for a late winter split application of nitrogen on small grains from any other source on the same acreage, a state cost share payment rate of 75% of the application charge up to a maximum amount of \$4.50 per acre for the second application in the late winter. If only one late winter application is made, no reimbursement is to be provided.
3. Costs for soil nitrate test sample collection and analysis by a commercial laboratory that may be used to implement this practice will be reimbursed at a flat rate of \$8.00 per sample.

D. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and SWCD staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above, and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA), for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

Revised Feb, 2017

Certification from an Agricultural Best Management Practice Participant that  
a Tax Credit will not be Utilized

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby certify that I will not claim the tax credit which is available for participation in the Late Winter Split Application of Nitrogen on Small Grain, NM-4 practice, and therefore I am eligible for cost-share funding available under that practice for participants who do not wish to utilize the tax credit. I understand that any cost-share funds received must be returned should I claim the tax credit.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_