

PENNSYLVANIA'S NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ACT PROGRAM TECHNICAL MANUAL

Version 5.0

Provided by:

The Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission
(With the assistance of the PDA, PSU and NRCS)

The Technical Manual Version 5.0 released in January 2012 supports:

- Version 3.x of the Nutrient Management Plan Standard Format
- Version 2.x of the Nutrient Balance Sheet Standard Format
- Version 2.x of the Pennsylvania Phosphorus Index

The guidance in Technical Manual 5.0 is required for nutrient management plan submissions after January 1, 2012.

Preface

The *Pennsylvania Act 38 Nutrient Management Program Technical Manual* has been developed in order to provide consistent program guidance, further refining the requirements in the regulations, to be utilized in the development, review, and implementation of Act 38 nutrient management plans. This manual describes how the various calculations and decisions are made during plan development, review, and implementation. Additional program refinements will be incorporated into later revisions of this manual as time and resources permit.

The State Conservation Commission (Commission) is pleased to provide this guidance document to assist you in understanding the provisions of Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act (NMA) program. We hope that this manual will provide the needed program guidance to assure consistent implementation of the program statewide. This manual is a compilation of guidance directives providing further refinement of the nutrient management regulations; however, the guidance in this manual does not supersede the regulations. Where conflicts may be perceived the regulations take precedence.

The main audience for this manual is the Certified Nutrient Management Specialists who will be developing, reviewing, or assisting with implementing plans to meet the NMA or related programs. All specialists are encouraged to become very familiar with the information in the manual and are directed to follow this guidance closely in order to ensure consistent program implementation throughout the state.

The Act 38 program strives to provide consistent program requirements throughout Pennsylvania and this document has been developed to assist in this effort. Program staff are directed to follow the program guidance provided in this manual and to implement the program in accordance with Commission direction in order to maintain this important program consistency. For questions relating to the implementation of program requirements, policies, or general use of this manual, please contact NMA program staff from the Commission, PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) or Pa Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for assistance.

Penn State University has been the lead entity in assisting the Commission in the development of this manual. Information in this manual has been provided by the Commission, PDA, Penn State University (Penn State), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and DEP and other contributing program staff throughout the state. The Commission thanks all of those people who provided excellent input into the development of this fourth version of the technical manual. Please keep this manual up to date by including into the manual any updates provided by program staff as well as program direction provided in NMA newsletters, program notes or program bulletins.

This manual is organized to reflect the various sections and appendices of an Act 38 nutrient management plan. For each section or appendix of the plan, the manual provides technical and policy guidance of how that portion of the plan is to be completed. The supplement section of the manual provides examples and blank forms that may be useful in the development of Act 38 nutrient management plans. A sample

plan has been developed for the program and is provided in Supplement 2 of this manual to provide direction on how the information is to be shown in an Act 38 plan.

If you have any questions or comments relating to the format or use of the manual, please contact the Commission office at 717-787-8821.