

If an agricultural operation has been in existence and relatively unchanged since Oct. 1, 1997, and installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) as called for in an approved nutrient management plan would put the operation's financial condition in jeopardy, the Nutrient Management Grant Program offered through the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program may be of help.

What is the Nutrient Management Grant Program?

The Nutrient Management Grant Program is a cost-share based grant program designed to provide assistance to Pennsylvania farmers with state-approved nutrient management plans who need to have plan-identified BMPs installed, but whose financial condition is such that they are unlikely to do so.

What Grant Amount Is Available?

The Nutrient Management Grant Program can provide approved applicants with up to 80 percent of the cost of implementing a BMP as detailed in an approved nutrient management plan, not to exceed \$75,000 per plan. Pennsylvania's Agri-Link Program may be used in conjunction with this program.

Application Submission

The application requires information pertaining to the financial condition of the agricultural operation, the projects to be constructed with the requested funding, and the engineering and construction costs of proposed projects.

Applications can be obtained through a local county conservation district, or through the State Conservation Commission at the address listed below.

PA State Conservation Commission
C/O PA Department of Agriculture
Nutrient Management Program
Bureau of Plant Industry
2301 N. Cameron St. Rm. G-11
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
(717) 772-4187

For more information contact:

Pennsylvania's

Nutrient Management Program

offers

Plan Implementation

Grants

through the

Nutrient Management Grant Program

Need to install best management practices to fulfill an approved Pennsylvania nutrient management plan?

The PA State Conservation Commission administers this program through the PA Department of Agriculture.

Applicant Eligibility

- ❖ An eligible applicant must be the owner or operator of an existing livestock operation where the primary farming activity of the operation has remained relatively unchanged since Oct.1, 1997.

The phrase “relatively unchanged” means:

- *Animal numbers have not significantly increased.*
- *A new animal type has not been introduced onto the operation.*
- *BMP needs have not changed due to an increase in animal numbers.*
- *Animal housing or management facilities have not changed due to an increase in animal numbers.*

Not Eligible for Funding

Operations not eligible for funding are those that have:

1. Begun operation after Oct. 1, 1997.
2. Increased animal numbers beyond normal production increases.
3. Expanded through the introduction of a new animal type.

Applicant Eligibility

- ❖ The applicant must also have legal and financial responsibility for the agricultural operation, or apply jointly with the person who has legal and financial responsibility.
- ❖ The applicant must demonstrate that the operation’s **financial condition** is such that implementation of an approved BMP without a grant would result in the operation being financially distressed.
 - ◆ The financial condition of an applicant is determined by evaluating the income of the operation **versus** the debt load of the operation over a 3-year period.
 - ◆ The financial condition analysis of the operation must meet certain eligibility thresholds established by the State Conservation Commission.

Eligible Costs

Funding is available for Best Management Practices listed in the approved nutrient management plan that have been designed and installed according to PA Technical Guide standards and specifications.

The grant is made as a cost-share reimbursement after the project is completed. Reimbursements will be issued directly to the approved applicant.

Eligible costs are those incurred after the application is approved, and include:

- ◆ Project design and engineering activities - such as planning, cost estimates, certifications and surveys.
- ◆ Project construction - includes labor, materials, equipment and site preparation.
- ◆ Work performed by the applicant if designed and installed according to PA Technical Guide standards, and the work is necessary to the installation of the eligible BMP.