

Name of Practice: SPLIT APPLICATION OF NITROGEN ON CORN
USING PRE-SIDEDRESS NITRATE TEST
DCR Specification for No. NM-3C

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Split Application of Nitrogen on Corn Using Pre-sidedress Nitrate Test (PSNT) practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will encourage the split application of nitrogen on corn. For fields receiving only nitrogen fertilizer; split applications will be based upon soil sample results and the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). All secondary or split applications will be applied at a growth stage (15" to 24" tall) when the plant is entering the highest demand for nitrogen.

For fields that have previously received manure or biosolids applications according to the current NMP, a pre-sidedress nitrate test (PSNT) will be used to determine the amount of nitrogen, necessary in the split application.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Eligibility:

- i. Eligibility for this practice is limited to the length of the plan recommending the sidedress practice.
- ii. Farmer must provide a written verification (such as a work order or bill) to the district within two weeks of the sidedress application when the application has been contracted out.
- iii. The total number of corn acres specified by the nutrient management plan to be side dressed will determine the maximum acres to qualify, with payment being made only to those acres which actually received a secondary application of nitrogen.
- iv. In order to be eligible for cost-share or tax credit, producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field that this practice will be implemented on. The NMP must comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, (4VAC50-85 et seq.) and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014), must be prepared and certified by a Virginia certified nutrient management planner, and must be on file with the local District before any cost-share payment is made to the participant. Plans shall also contain any specific production management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VACV50-85-130G).
- v. District staff should utilize the NMP maps, nutrient balance sheets, and summary sheets to confirm practice implementation. A comparison between crop recommendations and in field conditions shall be used when certifying conservation practice compliance.

2. The total number of corn acres specified by the nutrient management plan to receive manure will determine the maximum acres to qualify for cost-share payment for the PSNT. Cost-share payment for PSNT laboratory analysis will be made only for those PSNT tests that are submitted for laboratory analysis.
 - i. The PSNT must be done when corn is approximately 12 inches in height.
 - ii. PSNT samples should represent a minimum of 7 acres on average and a maximum of 20 acres on average.
3. Checks to ensure compliance with this practice may be conducted by the District or appropriate agency personnel and failure to comply may result in forfeiture of cost-share funds.
4. Farmer must sign-up prior to April 1 and provide a written verification of contracted split application cost (including the PSNT results) to the district within two weeks of the sample analysis.
5. Application of any sidedress nitrogen must be made after the corn is at the 6-leaf stage or at least 15" in height.
6. Total nitrogen to be applied to the cornfield must be consistent with the nutrient management plan or determined by using a PSNT consistent with procedures contained in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, 4VAC50-85 et. seq.
7. This is an annual practice.

C. Rate(s)

1. As set forth by Virginia Code § 58.1-339.3 and §58.1-439.5, Virginia 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 last page of this specification*) 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 split application of nutrients to corn 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 \$6.00 per acre for the sidedress application, based on the contracted split application acreage. Producers applying their own split applications will receive \$6.00 per acre applied.
3. Costs for soil nitrate test sample collection and analysis by a commercial laboratory that are 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 District 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 March, 2018

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 Split Application of Nitrogen to Corn Using Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test, NM-3C 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: _____