

## Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

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### 3.1.04

#### **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (Large Farms)**

The NMC provides a financial incentive to offset some of the added costs associated with properly implementing a farm's NMP.

1. (Eligibility) Farms selected at the beginning of the program qualify to participate in the Standard Nutrient Management Credit Program. A list of participating farms is available from the Nutrient Management Team upon request.
2. Nutrient Management Credit rates and the list of eligible expenses will be reviewed annually by the MIC committee (see attachment A).
3. In the case of extenuating circumstances, the Executive Committee will determine the eligibility for funding of credits.

#### **Staff Guidelines**

1. Participants agree to:
  - A. Implement their NMP. They should not exceed recommended manure application rates, and will follow the application timing guidelines contained in it.
  - B. Submit records of all manure applications when requested.
  - C. Continue to follow the O&M agreement for all BMPs contained in their Whole Farm Plan.
2. Certification of Compliance:
  - A. Participants will annually submit nutrient management records for certification of compliance.
  - B. A Peer Review committee comprised of three WAC council members and two watershed farmers will be appointed annually by the MIC committee. This committee will conduct a final review of records submitted and is responsible for final certification of compliance. The Peer Review when it deems it as the most effective way to gain improvement in farm compliance in the future.

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- C. The Peer Review committee meeting is confidential and will include the five committee members appointed by the MIC, the WAP Program Manger, the nutrient management team reviewers and a WAP staff member to take minutes.
  - D. The WAC finance office will post credits for each farm after certification by the Peer Review committee. Each participant will be notified by letter of the Peer Review committee's decision. This letter will confirm the amount of credit available, including any credit carried over from previous years and when those credits expire.
  - E. (Carry-over of Credits)- Credits will be carried over for five years providing the opportunity to accumulate credits to cover larger expenses. Unclaimed credits will expire December 31<sup>st</sup>, five years after they are posted (i.e. credits posted after 2003 peer review will expire on December 31, 2008). In the event that the Watershed Agricultural Council dissolves, unclaimed credits will be paid directly to the producers.
3. Payments can be made only to the maximum certified credits earned. Payment methods are listed below. Payment process will be implemented according to the Standard Operating Procedure for the Nutrient Management Credit.
- A. Payment Method 1: Participant reimbursement
    - a. Participant pays for eligible expenses.
    - b. Participant submits copy of invoice and valid proof of payment to Nutrient Management Team.
    - c. WAC reimburses within 30 days.
  - B. Payment Method 2: Payment to Vendor
    - a. This method may only be used for equipment purchase and custom services.
    - b. Farmer submits an official price quote from the vendor with description of equipment or service and agrees to payment to vendor.
4. Carry forward of excess expenses: Expenses for eligible equipment that exceed the amount of available credit may be carried over for up to three years and reimbursed with credits earned in those years.

Related NM Team SOPs  
NM Credit Record Submission & Review  
NM Credit Peer Review  
NM Credit Reimbursement

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### **ATTACHMENT A:** **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CREDIT RATES & ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

1. Nutrient Management Credit Rates: \$10.00 per acre
2. Expenses Eligible for NM Credit Reimbursement:
  - A. Purchase, lease, rent or repair of the following equipment:
    - a. Manure spreaders, or dump wagons
    - b. Manure pumps
    - c. Barn cleaner equipment (chains, chutes)
    - d. Bucket loaders
    - e. Skid steer loaders
    - f. Milk house waste, barnyard run-off transfer pump
    - g. Composting equipment (turners)
    - h. No-till planting equipment
  - B. Customer handling or spreading of manure or compost
  - C. Expenses related to seed bed preparation and seeding with fall cover crops, including custom services.
  - D. Milk house waste and barnyard run-off settling tank pump out.