

Nitrogen Fertilizer BMP Record

The recordkeeping table allows users to document information that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will use to evaluate the adoption of nitrogen fertilizer best management practices (BMPs).

As part of the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP), use of nitrogen fertilizer BMPs is important for groundwater protection. For more information, please visit [Minnesota NFMP](https://mda.state.mn.us/nfmp) (mda.state.mn.us/nfmp).

A list of nitrogen fertilizer BMPs for each township or group of townships under the NFMP is available on the [MDA's Mitigation webpage](https://mda.state.mn.us/nfmp/mitigation) (mda.state.mn.us/nfmp/mitigation). Please refer to the BMP list specific to your township when adopting practices.

The MDA will periodically evaluate the adoption of fertilizer BMPs by reviewing records for fertilizer use and management. The records may be kept at the farm, the fertilizer dealer, or crop consultant, etc., but written records will be essential for a successful BMP evaluation. Other record keeping systems are also acceptable if the information listed below is included. Producers who operate in a township where there is a published BMP list are asked to maintain records that include the following information:

Field Name or ID	Acres	Soil Texture*	Crops Grown	Yield Goal	Date, Type and Rate of N Applications	Placement of Application	Use of N Stabilizer	Crediting of Other Sources of Nitrogen	Manure Application Dates	Soil and Manure Test Results
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*As defined by the [coarse textured soils map](https://mda.state.mn.us/coarsesoilmap) (mda.state.mn.us/coarsesoilmap).

For the evaluation, records should be kept for each field. If part of a field is managed differently, then a separate set of records would be appropriate for each part of the field. For example:

- Part of a field had applications of a different nitrogen source.
- Nitrogen was applied at a different time.
- Part of a field had a manure application.

Take credit for all sources of nitrogen applied to each cropland field, including but not limited to starter fertilizer, weed and feed program, phosphorus fertilizers such as MAP and DAP.

Accurately calculating total nitrogen rate includes crediting nitrogen from other sources such as legumes and livestock manure. For legumes such as alfalfa, be sure to use the University of Minnesota's suggested nitrogen rates. Please see the [University of Minnesota Extension's nutrient management guidelines](https://extension.umn.edu/crop-production/nutrient-management) (extension.umn.edu/crop-production/nutrient-management) for more information. Nitrogen credits from legumes such as alfalfa are available for the two crop years following termination of the alfalfa. Manure credits include plant available nitrogen for the first and second crop year after applications. Complete records should include all supporting information that is used to create these records, including soil and manure tests results, fertilizer invoices or weigh slips, application dates, etc.

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This fillable form can be used to document all sources of nitrogen including fertilizer, manure, and legumes. List each nitrogen application that was applied for each crop year. At the end of each crop year, include a crop year total for N applied.

Producer's Name	Field Name or ID	Number of Acres	Soil Texture*

*As defined by the [coarse textured soils map](http://mda.state.mn.us/coarsoilmap) (mda.state.mn.us/coarsoilmap).

Crop grown or Nitrogen Source applied (fertilizer, manure, N credit from previous crop(s), fertigation, MAP and DAP.	Yield Goal for Crops other than Corn	Date of N or Manure Application or Date of Alfalfa Termination or Planting Date of Crop	Product and Rate (gal., tons, or lb./ac.)	Application Method (Broadcast, banded, injection, incorporation, or irrigation)	Actual N units Applied (lb./ac)	List any use of Nitrification or Urease Inhibitors (if applicable)

If you have questions about record keeping, please contact one of the following MDA staff:

Central MN: Casey Field – St. Cloud (320) 406-4958

Southwest MN: Kevin Hauth – Lamberton (507) 822-4175

Southeast MN: Dawn Bernau – Rochester (507) 216-1094

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