



*I think I learned more about soil and what's required to grow things in those two days than in my entire sophomore biology class...I walked away with a better understanding of the need for nutrient management and the knowledge to improve my farm's pasture.*

—William Boniface, General Manager and Partner, Bonita Farm



## Maryland's Nutrient Management Requirements

The Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 (WQIA) requires all farmers grossing \$2,500 a year or more or livestock producers with 8,000 pounds or more of live animal weight to run their operations using a nutrient management plan that addresses nitrogen and phosphorus inputs. The rules apply to all agricultural land that produces plants, food, feed, fiber, animals, or other agricultural products.

Farmers are required to submit copies of their initial nutrient management plans to the Nutrient Management Program, update plans before they expire, take new soil samples a minimum of once every three years, obtain manure analyses (if using manure) at least every other year, and submit Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) by March 1 documenting how they implemented their plans during the previous year.



## Nutrient Management Regional Offices

**Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties**  
P.O. Box 459  
Hancock, MD 21750  
410-279-3506

**Carroll and Frederick counties**  
92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110  
Frederick, MD 21702  
410-353-4320

**Anne Arundel, Howard, and Montgomery counties**  
92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110  
Frederick, MD 21702  
410-507-4811

**Baltimore and Harford counties**  
P.O. Box 850  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
443-223-0403

**Cecil and Kent counties**  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-991-3114

**Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties**  
P.O. Box 652  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
410-980-9479

**Caroline, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties**  
P.O. Box 549  
Cordova, MD 21625  
410-279-4003

**Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties**  
P.O. Box 340  
Marydel, MD 21649  
410-353-5660

**Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations**  
27722 Nanticoke Road, Unit 2  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
410-507-4949



**Maryland Department of Agriculture**

Office of Resource Conservation

**Nutrient Management Program**  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
[www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov)  
410-841-5959

UNIVERSITY OF  
**MARYLAND**  
EXTENSION



Maryland Farmer  
Training & Certification  
Program



In the time it takes to clean and service the combine, you could become **CERTIFIED** to write your own Nutrient Management Plan.



# FARMER TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

Farmers understand their own operations and needs better than anyone. As a farmer or producer, it makes sense for you to become certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to write your own nutrient management plan—a process that takes just two days. MDA, in partnership with University of Maryland Extension (UME), has developed a series of specialized Farmer Training and Certification (FTC) workshops for farmers and producers who want to become certified to develop their own nutrient management plans and get the most from this important management tool.

There are many benefits to becoming certified. The FTC Program makes it easier to comply with Maryland's nutrient management requirements. As an added bonus, the training provides valuable insight into the latest research findings and management techniques to help you improve production, increase yields, and maximize nutrient efficiency.

## How it Works

Farmers attend a two-day workshop. On the first day, you will learn the fundamentals of nutrient management and work through a model plan. Take-home study materials and reference guides help prepare you for the nutrient management certification exam.

On the second day—usually scheduled within four weeks of the initial training session—you will take an open book certification exam. After passing the exam, you will work with an MDA nutrient management specialist or Extension advisor to develop a nutrient management plan for your operation.

Once you pass the exam and complete your nutrient management plan, MDA will certify you. To remain eligible to update and revise your plan, you must attend six hours of continuing education classes once every three years. Importantly, certified farmers **are not required to attend nutrient applicator voucher training** that's required for farmers who apply nutrients to 10 or more acres of cropland.

## Getting Started

Training classes are listed on MDA's website at [bit.ly/NMP\\_Training](http://bit.ly/NMP_Training). Register for the class that most closely describes your operation. To develop a nutrient management plan for your operation, bring the following information to the workshop:

- Farm map or sketch of the operation
- Soil test results that are less than two years old
- Recent manure analysis (if manure is applied to the land)

## Certification Fee

A \$20 fee is required to take the exam. There is an additional charge for course/study materials. However, you will not be charged to retake the exam or renew your certification. Directions and an agenda will be sent with confirmation letters to all registrants.

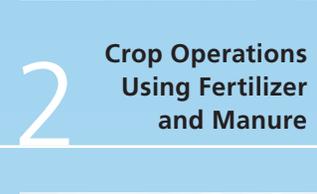
# Choose the workshop that's right for you:

*Farmer Training and Certification classes geared toward specific types of operations are offered regionally throughout the state. These include:*



Pasture-Based Operations

1



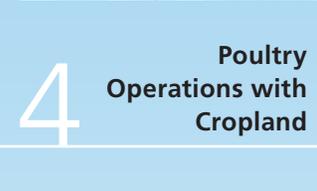
Crop Operations Using Fertilizer and Manure

2



Crop Operations Using Commercial Fertilizer Only

3



Poultry Operations with Cropland

4



Poultry Operations with No Cropland

5



Nursery and Greenhouse Operations

6