

## Program Description

Few people outside of active agriculture can fully understand the multiple responsibilities of managing a farm as well as you, the farmer. While agriculture can provide a fun place for school kids to visit and is critical to the environment, it is also most importantly your business and your livelihood. Every decision you make needs to be compared against the time involved, the expense, and the value.

Regulatory pressure is increasing on the farming community to ensure that farms are not contributing to water quality problems with manure and fertilizer runoff. Nutrient management plans, and CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) are examples of ways to evaluate and minimize your farm's possible impact.

But maybe those programs are not right for you, right now.

Do you want to:

- Be responsible about the management of the manure and fertilizers on your farm?
- Receive some free, confidential assistance to help you evaluate potential impacts to water quality?
- Find out where you might be able to save money on purchased fertilizer through better nutrient allocation?
- Visit with knowledgeable, trusted District employees who can help you find any additional resources that can help you?

What might be right is the new *Growing with You Program* through the SVNMP.

### KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

1. Soil Tests
2. RUSLE 2 Analysis
3. Phosphorous Index

*Completely Confidential*

**While funds last, the SVNMP is offering free to farmers up to 5 soil tests with Phosphorous Index and RUSLE2 analyses.**

**1. Soil tests**—tell you what's there already, and helps you know what is available to the crop you are planting. It is the basis of all recommendation.

**2. RUSLE2**—determines what potential soil loss exists based on soil type, crop, yield and management practices. It also evaluates the potential for organic matter gains or losses.

**3. Phosphorous Index**—will assess the potential for phosphorus runoff from individual fields based on soil characteristics and nutrient application practices. Scenarios can be run to see what nutrient application schedule works best for your farm to limit potential P loss.

These tests will provide information about your nutrient management strategies and how they might be adjusted to optimize yields, limit agricultural run off from the fields, and potentially show where purchased fertilizer could be reduced or eliminated. In consultation with the SVNMP, we can discuss possible changes such as crop rotations, cover crops or tillage methods that could help your crop management. If you choose to make any changes, we can assist in finding potential resources to help.

The purpose of this program is not to minimize the importance of full nutrient management plans, and hopefully you will decide that further planning will be helpful to you. If so, we will help you find funding and assistance to complete a nutrient management plan. However, there is no obligation to do so through this program.

*Our goal is to help you learn ways to manage nutrients in a cost-effective, time-sensitive and environmentally appropriate manner!*

I am interested in receiving further information about the services of the Southern Vermont Nutrient Management Program.

Please contact me at :

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please call to schedule a visit immediately.

\_\_\_\_ I can't participate now, but would appreciate further information.

Mail to : PMNRCD, PO Box 209, Poultney, VT 05764



“These are valuable tools—they give us information to pass on to a farmer about management strategies and their environmental impact, which fields could possibly handle more manure, while minimizing any adverse water quality effects. ... and can potentially save farmers money”

*Jennifer Alexander  
SVNMP Educator*

“While I can see that nutrient management plans are probably pretty helpful to a lot of people, I know I don’t have the time to put into it right now, but I do want to have a better idea of where my nutrients are going. I don’t want to waste them, anymore than I want them in the water, so a simple few tests like this with some help might be good for me”.

*Farmer, Rutland County*

Sponsored by the following  
Conservation Districts:

Bennington  
Ottauquechee  
Poultney-Mettowee  
Rutland  
White River  
Windham  
Winooski

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Southern Vermont Nutrient Management Program

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Southern Vermont

Nutrient Management  
Program



Growing  
With You