

FACT SHEET:

PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT TOOL ON-FARM ECONOMIC ANALYSIS PROJECT



2015 Maryland Agricultural Phosphorus Initiative

BACKGROUND

PMT ON-FARM ECONOMIC ANALYSIS PROJECT

The 2015 Maryland Agricultural Phosphorus Initiative Plan includes a PMT On-Farm Economic Analysis Project. The project is currently recruiting 10 to 12 farmers statewide to represent a cross-section of Maryland's agricultural industry including poultry, dairy, grain, beef and organic operations. Although it is anticipated that Lower Eastern Shore counties will be most impacted by the PMT, this analysis considers the economic impact statewide. The project is under the direction of the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Farm Selection Process

Interested farmers should plan to enroll approximately 100 acres in this two-year study. MDA plans to evaluate the operational and economic impacts of implementing the PMT on a minimum of 1,000 acres. The study will compare PMT findings with the Phosphorus Site Index currently being used to determine the risk of P loss. Corn is the main crop to be evaluated, but other crops may be examined. To qualify for the project, enrolled acres must have a P FIV 150+. Participating farmers should have been

eligible to apply litter/manure in 2014 using PSI results but PMT results will limit or prohibit manure use. Study fields must be free of spring nutrient applications when enrolled. Farms that top-dressed N may be considered. Ideally, MDA would like to study six to eight poultry operations, two to three dairy operations, one beef farm, one organic farm and one to two grain farms that use manure or poultry litter. Participating farmers will not be identified and information gathered from individual farms will be confidential. Only aggregated data will be shared publicly.

PROJECT DETAILS

INCENTIVES

A tailored incentive package will be offered to participating farmers. Incentives include subsidies to purchase commercial fertilizer if litter or manure nutrient replacement is needed, manure transport, and compensation for time required to keep records and work with project staff. Incentives will range from \$25/acre to \$125-\$150/acre depending on farm conditions and PMT results. The incentive for purchasing N fertilizer will be based on the current cost of N and the recommended application rate based on documented yield history. Compensation may be provided through a cost-share grant.

FARMER REQUIREMENTS

Participants must commit to provide transparent, credible data, as outcomes may influence implementation of the PMT. Farmers must be willing to share their current Nutrient Management Plan with MDA staff involved in the analysis. At least three years of field-specific crop yield data is required in addition to nutrient application records for all sources of organic and inorganic nutrients. Participants agree to maintain and provide data regarding the project and work with staff in order to monitor and evaluate individual farm impacts.

Farmers interested in participating in this On-Farm Economic Analysis of the PMT should contact:
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