



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary

James P. Eichhorst, Deputy Secretary

Nutrient Management Program

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

www.mda.maryland.gov

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

410.841.5959 Baltimore/Washington

410.841.5950 Fax

800.492.5590 Toll Free

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Dear Certified Farmers and Consultants:

Maryland's Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) regulations require farms with high soil phosphorus levels to be categorized into three tiers (**A**=150-299, **B**=300-449 or **C**= 450 or greater) based on an average of all fields on a farm with a Fertility Index Value (FIV) of 150 or greater. These tiers govern when a farmer has to begin transitioning to the PMT, an updated tool that uses the best available science to identify the potential risk of phosphorus loss from farm fields and prevent the additional buildup of phosphorus in soils that are already saturated.

Certified farmers and consultants are **required** under Maryland's nutrient management regulations to report ***Average FIV data for farms that have one or more fields with a soil phosphorus FIV of 150 or above no later than September 30, 2016.***

To assist with this reporting requirement, the department has developed a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that can be downloaded from our website at

http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Documents/TierGroupSpreadsheet.xlsx

In addition to identifying information, the following information is required:

- Number of fields with an FIV of 150 or greater
- Total acreage of all fields with an FIV of 150 or greater
- Average FIV of all fields with an FIV of 150 or greater
- Tier Group (*Note: The spreadsheet will automatically calculate the tier group designation based on the information provided.*)

Certified consultants and farmers who prepare their own nutrient management plans should download the spreadsheet, complete the required information, and email the document back to the department. To ensure that this information remains confidential, please email the files to: **pmtinfo.mda@maryland.gov** by the **September 30, 2016** deadline. If you have prepared plans for operations and all fields are below 150 FIV, then please indicate on the spreadsheet "No Operations to Report" and submit the spreadsheet. **MDA will require a response from all who receive this mailing.**

If you have questions about or need help completing the form, please contact Bryan Harris, Implementation Coordinator, at 410-841-5951 or bryan.harris@maryland.gov. Thank you for your prompt attention to this new and important requirement.

Sincerely,

Dwight Dotter,
Nutrient Management Program Administrator