



Nutrient Management Recordkeeping Requirements

Keep records for five years to:

- Track agronomic applications to ensure good crop production and protect water from leaching or runoff.
- Tell YOUR story.
- Evaluate application results.
- Plan future applications.
- Meet state requirements per WAC 16-611.

Records required to show agronomic rate of nutrient application

In October 2012, WAC 16-611 clarified what records must be kept, and set penalty levels (not to exceed \$5,000 per calendar year) for lack of records.

Soils

Talk to your planner about taking soil samples. Post-harvest soil samples should be taken after harvest and before substantial rainfall.

- Annual nitrate nitrogen analysis.
- Every three years, include:
 - » Organic matter
 - » pH
 - » Ammonium nitrogen
 - » Phosphorus (Method: Bray-1 for soil pH <7, and Olsen for soil pH >7)
 - » Potassium
 - » Electrical conductivity

Manure transfer

Records for manure imports and exports must include the following:

- Date of transfer.

“Agronomic rate” means the application of nutrients to supply crop or plant nutrient needs to achieve realistic yields and minimize the movement of nutrients to surface and ground waters.

Right time, right place, right amount

Agronomic applications of nutrients, regardless of source, maximize plant growth and protect water quality. Applying the right nutrient source, at the right time, at the right rate, and in the right place are components of agronomic nutrient applications.



Why keep so many records?

To protect your operation: good records showing agronomic applications of nutrients demonstrate that you are a responsible operator, using manure beneficially and protecting your surface and ground water.

For compliance: complete records tell the story of your nutrient management practices. Combined with a facility visit, records help inspectors assess compliance with the Dairy Nutrient Management Act.

- Amount of manure nutrients transferred (gallons or tons).
- Name and address of person supplying and receiving nutrients.
- Nutrient analysis of manure transferred.

Irrigation

Irrigation records must include:

- Field identification.
- Total amount of irrigation applied to each field, each year.

All nutrient sources

Complete nutrient analysis for organic and inorganic materials supplied for crop uptake, including manure, commercial fertilizers and digestate.

Manure, digestate, and un-labeled fertilizer sources must be analyzed annually for:

- Total nitrogen
- Ammonia nitrogen
- Phosphorus

Application Records

- Field ID and date of each application.
- Crop grown in each field where application occurred.
- Crop nutrient needs based on expected crop yield. If you double crop, include crop nutrient need based on expected yield for each crop.
- Nutrients available from residual soil nitrogen, including soil organic matter, legume crops, and previous organic nutrient applications.
- Method of application; nutrient source, nutrient analysis including amount of N and P applied and available for each source.
- Annual total amount of N and P applied to fields.
- Weather conditions 24 hours prior to and during applications.



Tell your story

What if your records show that you applied manure at agronomic rates, but fall soil nitrate levels were still high? Required records may not tell the whole story – what might they not be telling?

- *Did spring rainfall result in planting late?*
- *Did drought conditions result in less irrigation water?*
- *Did converting to a new cropping system result in elevated contributions from plant root breakdown?*

Keeping extra notes, beyond what's required, can help explain your full story.

Keep nutrient application records in a notebook or on a calendar

For example, if applying with a tanker, note the gallons applied with each load, such as 4,800 gallons. Combined with nutrient analysis, soil tests and crop nutrient needs, your records must demonstrate agronomic application of nutrients.

If you have questions about recordkeeping requirements, please contact your regional Nutrient Management Inspector:

- Southwest Region: 360-902-1928
- Northwest Region: 360-354-7421
- Eastern Region: 509-969-7140