



REMINDER: SEASON DATES

For planning purposes, the following months are correlated to each season. **Spring:** March, April, and May. **Summer:** June, July, and August. **Fall:** September, October, and November. **Winter:** December, January, and February.

With June we are no longer accepting ANY Fall 2025 crops.

PROGRAM YEAR 27 PAY RATES

Program Year 2027 will begin on July 1, 2026. Pay rates for plans written using NutMan will remain the same and can be found on the attached sheet titled “Nutrient Management Direct Pay Rates; effective July 1, 2026. The Enhanced Nutrient Management Acres form, which is filled out in year 2 and/or 3 of the plan has been made a regular rate and can also be found on the above-mentioned sheet.

The special rate for plans written for the first time in the Online Plan Writing System App (Module) will continue through the next two years. For plans already written in the Module there is still an opportunity to receive the incentivized rate. The Spring of 2026

the DCR added an enhancement feature, called the Nutrient Management Downloadable Spreadsheet (NMDS), to the Module. This allows users to download an excel sheet to their desktop to apply nutrients, both organic and commercial, on fields once core plan information has been entered into the online portion of the Module. Plans that are already in the Module can receive the incentivized rate if they are written using the NMDS. Information on the NMDS can be found here <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmplnr> under the Nutrient Management Plan Writing App drop down. There will be online trainings for the NMDS announced soon.

PROGRAM YEAR 29 MODULE TRANSITION

Program Year 2029, which will start on July 1, 2028, will bring a programmatic change for planning. Starting on that date plans written for the Direct Pay Program will be written using the Module. Until then we have additional rates for Module Plans to help assist in the transition from one program to the next. After July 1, 2028, the increased rates will be discontinued, and plans will no longer be accepted if written in NutMan.



INTRODUCING NEW STAFF

Please join us in welcoming our new Direct Pay Team member, Marie Schirmacher! She will be starting in the Nutrient Management Specialist Senior- Direct Pay position on June 25, 2026. Some of you may be familiar with Marie, she has been with the DCR as the Nutrient Management Specialists for the Coastal Plains for the past four years. She has worked extensively in the Module and will be a great resource for planners looking to transition into writing plans there. Prior to her work with DCR she worked for Virginia Tech's Tidewater Research Station after gaining her master's degree in Soil Science from Texas A&M. She can be contacted at Marie.Schirmacher@dcr.virginian.gov or at 757-434-9717.

DIRECT PAY DIRECTORY

A directory for planners wanting to advertise their services withing DCR's Direct Pay Program is on the [website](#). If you are not listed in the directory and wish to be please fill out the form attached to this newsletter. Return that to vanmplnr@dcr.virginia.gov and we will update it with your information.

Nutrient Management Direct Pay Rates

Effective July 1, 2026



TABLE 1: CROP PLANS

Per Acre Rates	Program Activity
\$3.00	Updated or Revised Plan acres
\$4.00	New* Plan acres
\$5.00	New* Plan acres within Bay Counties that are Target*** counties

TABLE 2: ANIMAL PLANS**

Per Acre Rates	Program Activity
\$4.00	Updated or Revised Plan acres
\$7.00	New* Plan acres
\$9.00	New* Plan acres within Bay Counties that are Target*** counties

TABLE 3: VERIFICATION RATES ON ALL ACREAGE TYPES FOR PLANS IN CONTRACT YEAR 2 OR 3

Number of Acres	Rate
1 - 399	\$225.00
400 - 999	\$400.00
1,000 or more	\$600.00

* Acres never having been in a nutrient management plan or has not had a plan for 18 months.

** Animal Plan is a farm where manure generated on-farm is collected and stored/spread on fields. Use of "imported" manure spread on fields is identified as a "Crop Plan".

*** Target Counties in the Chesapeake Bay: Augusta, Shenandoah, and Rockingham

Table 4: ENHANCED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FOR PLANS IN CONTRACT YEAR 2 OR 3

Number of Acres	Rate
1 - 399	\$100.00
400 - 999	\$200.00
1,000 or more	\$300.00

Please note: Plans written in the NutMan software will be phased out starting in PY 29 (July 1, 2028). At that time plans for Direct Pay will only be accepted if they are written in the Online Plan Writing System App (the Module).

Nutrient Management Direct Pay Rates

Special Rates for PY 2027



The below rates are for **Program Year 2027**. That is **July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027**.

These rates are for: plans written in the Online Nutrient Management Plan Writing App (the Module) for the **first time** i.e. they have previously been written in NutMan or have not been in nutrient management. **OR** plans already the Module that are written using the **Nutrient Management Downable Spreadsheet (NMDS)**.

The rates cover new and revised plans.

Acres digitized by the DCR are not eligible.

TABLE A: Crop Plans written for the **first time** in the Module. **OR** plans already the Module written using the **Nutrient Management Downable Spreadsheet (NMDS)**

Per Acre Rates	Program Activity
\$4.00	Revised Plan acres
\$5.00	New* Plan acres
\$6.00	New* Plan acres within Bay Counties that are Target*** counties

TABLE B: Animal Plans** written for the **first time** in the Module. **OR** plans already the Module written using the **Nutrient Management Downable Spreadsheet (NMDS)**

Per Acre Rates	Program Activity
\$5.00	Updated or Revised Plan acres
\$8.00	New* Plan acres
\$10.00	New* Plan acres within Bay Counties that are Target*** counties

*Acres never having been in a nutrient management plan or has not had a plan for 18 months.

** Animal Plan is a farm where manure generated on-farm is collected and stored/spread on fields. Use of "imported" manure spread on fields is identified as a "Crop Plan".

*** Target Counties in the Chesapeake Bay: Augusta, Shenandoah, and Rockingham