

# Spring Fertilizer Application



## Background/Objective:

Spring application of nitrogen fertilizer has several environmental benefits for air and water quality. During the spring thaw, soil is saturated, increasing the risk of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions from nitrogen fertilizer applied the previous fall. Application of fertilizer in the spring, after the soil is completely thawed, increases nutrient absorption and significantly reduces the amount of nitrogen lost in runoff to surface water bodies, leaching to ground water or transformation to N<sub>2</sub>O.

To facilitate spring application of fertilizers, this BMP provides funding for the development of on-farm fertilizer storage facilities. This allows for the purchase of fertilizer in the fall that can be stored for use in spring. As well, funding is available for equipment modification for spring application of fertilizer at seeding time.

By improving your fertilizer storage and application, you can:

- improve crop nutrient use efficiency
- purchase fertilizers in the fall when costs are lower
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions

## Relevant sections of the *Environmental Farm Plan Workbook*:

- Fertilizer Storage and Handling (B4)
- Commercial Fertilizer Management for Crop Production (Nutrient Management) (B1 1)
- Field Crop Management (B1 3)

## Related BMP categories:

In addition to this BMP category, you may also want to consider practices funded under the following:

- Reduced Tillage (MSAPP)
- Perennial Cover for Sensitive Land (MSAPP)
- Cover Crops (MSAPP)
- Increased Perennial Legumes in Annual Crop Rotation (MSAPP)
- Improved Crop Residue Management (EFAP)
- Precision Agriculture Applications (EFAP)
- Nutrient Management Planning (EFAP)

Please note that you must complete a separate Section 2 of the application form for each BMP category.