

Nutrient

Updated May 2021

Objective: To maximise nutrient use efficiency while minimising nutrient losses to water.

Target 1 - Target 1. Nitrogen losses from farming activities are at or below the:

- a. Baseline GMP Loss Rate or Good Management Practice Loss Rates (whichever is the lesser) for the property;
- b. Consented nitrogen loss limits.

Target 2 - Target 2. Available nitrogen loss mitigation measures (excluding those associated with irrigation, fertiliser or effluent management) are implemented.

Target 3 - Target 3. Phosphorus and sediment losses from farming activities are minimised.

Target 4 - Target 4. Manage the amount, timing and application of fertiliser inputs to match the predicted plant requirements and minimise nutrient losses.

Target 5 - Target 5. Store and load fertiliser to minimise the risk of spillage, leaching and loss into water bodies.

Things you can do:

- Make sure the macronutrients content in your soils are optimal for plant growth through soil or leaf testing.
- Apply fertiliser when the weather, soil temperatures and moisture content are suitable – check before fertiliser application.
- Regularly test for Olsen P levels in your soils to monitor trends.
- Make sure your Olsen P levels are optimal for your soil type and land use.
- Tailor fertiliser applications for different management blocks, for example paddocks/blocks that have effluent applied will have differing fertiliser requirements than paddocks/blocks that don't have effluent applied.
- Ensure your crop rotation maximises the use of nutrients already in the soil.
- Consider using precision fertiliser technology to minimise fertiliser use in ineffective areas.
- Use a Spreadmark accredited contractor.
- If you use your own spreader, check the calibration using a bucket test regularly.
- Ensure spreaders are well maintained.
- You can check for paddock strips after spreading.
- Make sure fertiliser is stored well away from any waterways (this includes Stockwater races).
- Store fertiliser under cover and/or on non-permeable surfaces.
- Make sure any run-off of residues is captured and spread evenly over the soil.

Records/Evidence you can keep:

- OVERSEER nutrient budget or other N calculation model.**
- Nutrient management plan /agronomist recommendations.**
- Records of the date, time, location, type and rate of fertiliser application.**
- Soil test results.**
- GPS fertiliser tracking records (ground and aerial applications).**
- Spreading calibration and maintenance records (if you spread yourself).**

- Type and area of crop, how/when cultivated, how/when harvested, yields.**
- Imported and exported supplementary feed (type/amount).**
- Stock type/numbers/ages/weights (numbers averaged per month).**
- Milk production (kg MS/season).**