



2019 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR NITROGEN FERTILIZATION

Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance (ACWA) members have reaffirmed their agreement to protect Iowa's soil and water resources and have agreed to this code every year since 2001. In the Code of Practice, ACWA members agree to delay fall anhydrous applications without a nitrification inhibitor until soil temperatures are 50 degrees Fahrenheit and trending lower. Members use the county soil temperature and forecast maps compiled by Iowa State University as a decision-tool for beginning fall fertilizer applications.



PURPOSE:

To establish reasonable and practicable guidelines for nitrogen fertilization applications to reduce nitrate loss from farm fields.

WHY:

Effective management of farm nutrients is one of the keys to enhancing both environmental quality and profitable crop production. Consistent with the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, this Code of Practice provides information about guidelines adopted by the ACWA members as a condition of membership.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

1. A nutrient budget for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium shall be developed that considers all potential sources of nutrients including manure, legumes, etc. Nutrient recommendations shall be based on current soil test results, realistic yield goals, environmental impact and producer management capabilities.
2. Use the standardized county temperature and forecast maps found at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/> as part of the decision-making process for fall fertilizer application.
3. Delay fall anhydrous applications without a nitrification inhibitor until soil temperatures are:
 - 50°F, trending lower
 - Notify Association office of start of application for accountability documentation - email record to: sderscheid@iasoybeans.com.
4. Regardless of time of year application occurs, encourage use of other nutrient management technologies such as stabilizers, slow release fertilizers, incorporation or injection, soil nitrate testing and other technologies that minimize loss to surface or ground water resources.
5. If producer is participating with USDA Conservation Programs additional considerations for producer conformance with NRCS 590 Nutrient Management standard shall be followed. For guidance and requirements see standard: Iowa Nutrient Management Conservation Practice Standard Fact Sheet "What's New That Affects You in the Iowa 590 Standard?" https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/IA/Nutrient_Management_590_STD_2013_10.pdf
6. Encourage use of other supporting practices where feasible:
 - Tile line denitrification bioreactor
 - Constructed wetland
 - Conservation stream buffer and/or saturated buffer strips
 - Fall cover cropping system