



## Questions and answers

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### **1. Why is Nutrient Management important?**

Achieving the correct nutrient levels in your soil is essential for your crop yield and quality. Good nutrient planning makes sure that the nutrients you apply are available to the crop at the right time. Planning includes ensuring regular testing of your soil, timely and appropriate application of recommended amounts so that nutrient take up is optimised and nutrient loss to water and air are minimised.

### **2. Who has developed Tried & Tested?**

Tried & Tested has been developed by the industry, for the industry. In this second edition of the nutrient management plan, AIC, FWAG, LEAF, NFU and CLA (The Professional Nutrient Management Group) has worked together to develop a practical tool to help farmers maximise profits and minimise risks to the environment. Tried & Tested has involved extensive consultation with a range of interested parties so it has widespread support and acceptance.

### **3. What is Tried & Tested?**

Tried & Tested is a paper-based nutrient management plan which updates the original plan to include all the elements involved to demonstrate a responsible step-by-step approach to nutrient management planning. Tried & Tested also helps you to meet the requirements of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones regulation.

### **4. Does Tried & Tested help me comply with the new NVZ regulations?**

Yes. Nitrogen planning is an important aspect of the new rules (introduced in 2008). The field record sheets provide the information you need to do your Nmax calculation. You will need to use the *NVZ Guidance Leaflets 3* and *7* in conjunction with your Tried & Tested Plan records to check compliance with Nmax. (Nmax applies to the main arable crops and grass).

### **5. Is it possible to keep field record with Tried & Tested?**

Yes, the nutrient management plan includes two recording sheets:

1. Farm Record Sheet, for the whole farm
2. Field Record Sheet, for each field

Completing these forms through the season creates a simple, step by step method of recording nutrient planning and use. The process enables you to review and continually improve your nutrient use efficiencies.



## **6. How do farmers get hold of a copy of Tried & Tested?**

Farmers can obtain a **paper** copy of the plan from the Tried & Tested team:

Telephone: 02476 858896

Fax: 02476 858897

Email: [nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk](mailto:nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk)

Or they can download it from [www.nutrientmanagement.org](http://www.nutrientmanagement.org). They can also request an electronic version by emailing [nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk](mailto:nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk)

## **7. What does Tried & Tested cost?**

Tried & Tested is FREE!

## **8. Where can farmers get additional information about nutrient management?**

Farmers can visit our website [www.nutrientmanagement.org](http://www.nutrientmanagement.org) for more information and advice on efficient nutrient use as well as guidance on how to reduce the risk of losses to water and air. There are case studies and guidance from our supporting partners for manure and fertiliser management.

## **9. Where can farmers have their soil samples analysed?**

Our website [www.nutrientmanagement.org](http://www.nutrientmanagement.org) lists laboratories offering soil analysis or a message can be left on the Helpline 02476 858896 to receive a list through the post or by fax: 02476 858897.

Routine soil analysis will cover P, K, Mg and pH. In England and Wales, soil indices are based on the Olsen method of analysis for soil P and on ammonium nitrate extraction for soil K and Mg.

## **10. Where do farmers go if they need further one-to one advice on nutrient management planning?**

Farmers can obtain further advice on nutrient management planning by speaking to a FACTS Qualified Adviser. A directory of FACTS Qualified Advisers will be accessible from [www.nutrientmanagement.org](http://www.nutrientmanagement.org)

## **11. What is FACTS**

**FACTS** is a non-statutory scheme, established in 1994 providing over **3000 FACTS Qualified Advisers** who are competent to give advice on nutrient management issues on farms. A new Directory of Advisers will be made available during 2009. All advisers will be required to undertake Continual Professional Development training in nutrient management planning by the end of 2015.

## **12. Can Tried & Tested help farmers protect the environment?**

Through responsible nutrient management planning and use, farmers are making sure that only what is required by the crop is applied and that this is applied in the correct growing conditions, soil conditions and weather conditions. As a result nutrient loss of Nitrogen to water and air and Phosphate to water is kept to a minimum along with maintaining healthy soils.

### **13. Will farmers get a financial benefit from completing Tried & Tested?**

Financial savings can be made when accurate soil analysis and manure testing is carried out. This ensures only what is required is applied, and using resources from the farm could help make savings on buying inorganic fertilisers. Soil analysis may also show where P and K indices may be limiting to yield potential.

### **14. When should farmers be sampling their soil?**

In autumn or spring, before applying organic manures and fertilisers for the next crop. Autumn is usually convenient for arable crops but spring may be better for grassland – always taking samples for a particular field at the same time of year.

### **15. When should farmers be doing their nutrient management plan?**

Farmers should be carrying out their nutrient management plan when they are planning their grass and crop rotations. Tried & Tested prompts the key decisions to be made through the season.

### **16. How does Tried & Tested differ from PLANET?**

Tried & Tested is a paper-based nutrient management plan for nutrient management planning 'first-timers' whereas PLANET is a web-based electronic version of Defra's Fertiliser Recommendations manual (RB209). Although Tried & Tested is paper-based, EXCEL versions of the Tried & Tested record sheets will be available shortly. Look out for information on [www.nutrientmanagement.org](http://www.nutrientmanagement.org) or register at [nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk](mailto:nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk) for updates.

### **17. Where else can farmers find out about Tried & Tested and the work of the Professional Nutrient Management group?**

Farmers can contact any of the industry groups via their contact details in the plan or on the website or come and visit us all either at Cereals being held in Cambridgeshire in June or at the Dairy Event at Stoneleigh in September.

### **18. What is the role of the ECSFDI in Tried & Tested?**

The England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative is providing invaluable funding for a number of aspects of the work of the Professional Nutrient Management group, including the design and printing of the Tried & Tested nutrient management plan and the development and maintenance of the [www.nutrientmanagement.org](http://www.nutrientmanagement.org) website. Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers will be using and promoting the Tried & Tested nutrient management plan in farmer workshops.

#### **Contact details –**

Tried & Tested

Telephone: 02476 858896

Fax: 02476 858897

Email: [nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk](mailto:nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk)

Website: [www.nutrientmanagement.org](http://www.nutrientmanagement.org)

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