2021 Percent of County Cropland with Nutrient Management Plans

The 2021 Nutrient Management Program statistics represent the percentage of cropland acreage in the state covered by new or updated 590 nutrient management (NM) plans written by producers, landowners, and certified crop advisors and submitted to the county land conservation departments.

In 2021, counties reported 3.2 million acres, or 35% of the state’s harvestable cropland, were covered under a nutrient management plan.

**Figure 1:** Harvested cropland acres used to calculate percentages are derived from National Agricultural Statistics Service 2017 Census of Agriculture, which reported 9,234,611 harvested cropland acres in Wisconsin.

**Table 1:** NMP Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NM Plans reported by WI counties</td>
<td>7,865</td>
<td>7,238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>3.3 mil</td>
<td>3.2 mil</td>
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<td>Percent of WI cropland covered by a plan</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
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<td>Farmer-written plans</td>
<td>1,843</td>
<td>1,663</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average acres per Farmer written plan</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>304</td>
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**Figure 2:** Summary of NM plan metrics derived from information reported to WDATCP by the counties in 2020 and 2021. The extent of the impacts of COVID 19 or other factors in the decline in NM acres between 2020 and 2021 are unknown.

**Figure 3:** The 2021 distribution of NM plans by source. The Farmland Preservation (FP) Program remains the primary source of Nutrient Management Plans in the state.

**Figure 4:** Trends in NM plans acres from 2003—2021.
Figure 5: NM plan acres derived from information reported to DATCP by county land conservation offices in 2021. CAFO acres are included in this report; however, it is important to note that there are significant discrepancies between statewide CAFO acres reported by counties and DNR, as counties have varying staff capacity and access to tracking tools.

Total 2021 County-Reported NMP Acres

Figure 6: Change in NM acres reported by counties from 2020 to 2021.

Current and Future Tracking Efforts

Every year, county staff are asked to provide annual nutrient management data in the form of a spreadsheet. Some counties use third party programs, Access, or Excel to track their data; others use advanced GIS programs to have more control over changes and tracking.

For crop years 2022 and forward, a new survey style format for requesting this data will be available. Counties will be asked to provide the same data they always have, just in a more streamlined fashion. We will still be asking for total acres, numbers of plans, and data on plans submitted for various programs and purposes. We hope that in the long run this new format will save everyone time and make understanding your own counties data easier.

Be on the lookout this summer for that survey and guidance document as well as upcoming training opportunities to ensure that data for 2022 is as accurate as possible.

NMP Quality Assurance Reviews

In years past, DATCP and partners including county staff, NRCS, DNR, private agronomists, and others came together to review and discuss nutrient management plans.

Moving forward, we would like to reboot this team. The goals of this QA review team are to:

- Review NMPs for common compliance issues and planning mistakes, and provide feedback and assistance.
- Review the NMP program as a whole and identify key gaps where additional training, outreach, and other resources are needed.
- Build a comprehensive multiagency team to make sure compliance is understood and applied across the state.
DATCP Updates:

- Shauna Minick has been hired to support the Nutrient Management and Producer Led Programs.
- A limited supply of magnets and Keychains for the Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast are available upon request. Contact us by phone or email listed below.
- The administrative rule authorizing the Soil and Water Resource Management Program (ATCP50) is open for revision. For progress, updates, and meetings, click the link or search for: DATCP Home ATCP 50 Rule Changes (wi.gov)
- Be on the lookout for upcoming changes to how DATCP will be requesting this years Nutrient Management Data. Training and guidance coming this summer.

Quality Assurance Team: We are looking to revive the QAT for NMP reviews. If you have participated in this process in the past, or would like to in the future, please contact Cody Calkins.

SnapPlus Updates: Version 3 development is underway. Check the SnapPlus website for updates and future opportunities to beta test functions as they are released.

Virtual NMFE Curriculum: The Virtual Nutrient Management Farmer Education Curriculum is available to help people learn how to write their own nutrient management plans. Visit the following link for more information:

https://nmfe.webhosting.cals.wisc.edu/