



# HARDIN SWCD

## **Best Management Practices** by Sandra Springer, WLEB Nutrient Management Technician

Nutrient runoff is a continuous problem for freshwater throughout the state. There are a wide variety of actions that can be taken by rural and urban landowners to reduce the volume and rate of storm water runoff, as well as to reduce the amount of nutrients in the runoff. These actions are typically known as **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**, which include soil and water conservation practices, other management techniques, and social actions that are developed for a particular region as effective and practical tools for environmental protection.

There are a wide range of BMPs available to farmers that minimize the potential for phosphorous (P) loss in agricultural runoff. They are designed to control sources of P on farms, as well as the processes by which P is transported from land to moving waters. Best management practices range from measures that involve a change in farming operations, like conservation tillage, to simple actions, such as not applying manure before forecasted rain. It is critical that the most appropriate BMP, or suite of BMPs, are selected and implemented in the right place on the landscape, following recommended installation and maintenance guidelines. Individual producers must decide which combination of BMPs is best suited to their farm enterprise, taking into account the specific soils, climate, and management factors.

Farmers throughout the county are already making strides to keep nutrients on the fields. To minimize nutrient loss, farmers are creating customized nutrient management plans. By accounting for the different soil types, crop rotations, water flow and nutrient needs, each plan will help farmers better control the amount, source, placement, type and timing of fertilizer application. Technology and advanced farm equipment are also helping farmers accurately apply the **right source of fertilizer**, at the **right time**, in the **right place** and with the **right amount**, thus producing more with less. Equally important is that everyone is affected by and can contribute to a resolution of nutrient related concerns. Most field evaluations of BMP effectiveness at reducing watershed export of P conclude that **nutrient management is the single most effective measure for controlling P loss.**

For more Best Management Practices visit <https://abmps.osu.edu/home>.



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