Seven steps to a nutrient management review

In seasons when fertiliser pricing, weather conditions and the supply picture are all equally volatile, we know how difficult it can be to plan an effective, affordable and high-performing nutrient management strategy that protects your margins.

The key to success is to build your strategy for the season you're in; to rise to its specific challenges and optimise performance.

Our 7-step approach to a nutrient management review is designed to help you prepare your business with confident, informed decision-making to deliver a strong performance whatever the season brings.

1. Know your challenges

Is your soil nutrient level depleted? What is your approach to facing high fertiliser costs? Are you considering changes to your application method or equipment? Are you restricted by new regulations, taxes or by the criteria of schemes or contracts you're opted into? Is your crop performing variably across the field? By identifying your challenges at the start of the season, you can plan to overcome them as effectively as possible by exploring products, services and approaches that can help you stay ahead.

2. Make sure your programme is as optimised as it can be

Optimisation is about maximising returns through smart investment, ensuring the programme is balanced to unlock stronger crop performance and margins. High-performing crops rely on complete nutrition, not just nitrogen, including sulphur, potassium, phosphorus, magnesium and soil pH.



Precision technology supports this by improving accuracy and enabling variable rates, matching inputs to crop need and reducing waste—helping every decision work harder for your bottom line.

3. Apply the right rates at the best timings

Nutrient uptake and nitrogen use efficiency are impacted by when product is applied, which is influenced by environmental factors such as soil condition, pest populations and disease pressures, and the weather. Using insights from timings trials, weather data and biomass mapping can all help answer the question "when is right to apply?" while an analysis of the nutrition needed to achieve optimum yield potential and quality can answer "how much to apply?".

4. Understand the economics

When fertiliser costs are high, it's tempting to just cut back—but true cost efficiency comes from maximising return, not minimising spend. The priority should be ensuring every pound invested delivers more back than it would save if withheld.

Rather than applying more or less as a rule, focus on what your crop needs to perform at its best. Use available tools and seasonal insights from your farm to guide decisions - such as rates of nitrogen and targeting your spend on P&K nutrition - so every input is targeted, justified and contributes to stronger yield, margin and overall profitability.

5. Plan your strategy for purchasing your fertiliser requirements

High fertiliser costs partnered with supply challenges can make it difficult to get what you need, when you need it and at the right price. Setting up early cash flow support, entering into a de-risking scheme or nitrogen buying pool such as Flexi-N, buying over multiple purchases or reviewing whether adapting your system could spread your risk across multiple product markets are all things you can do to protect your business – and your margins. Don't underestimate the importance of keeping informed on markets to help you stay ahead; expert advice and market reports such as Frontrunner are key tools to support your decision making.

Build your nutrient management strategy with Frontier

We're here to support you at every stage of your nutrient management journey, from finding the right products to making the most of the tools available to guide your decision making.

Crop nutrition

Analytics and insights

Cash flow support

Expertise

Precision

6. Evaluate the success of your fertiliser programme

Gaining an in-depth understanding of your performance can help you identify what worked and what didn't. Yield mapping, grain analysis and cost analysis are all tools in the toolkit to help you understand crop progress through the season right through to your final financial performance. As a focus on sustainability becomes more central to crop production, knowing your carbon footprint can also be a key metric to understand.

7. Make the right changes

With the near consistent pressure on your time, it can be tempting to repeat the approach exactly the same the following season. However, conditions change year on year, both on your land and in the markets. By taking a step back and working through this 7-step approach at the start of every season you'll pave the way for success, whatever the challenges.

Need a deeper discussion?

Our team is at hand to help you work through any of the seven steps in this guide. **Get in touch today for further support.**

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