

Audubon Lifestyles

At its core, Audubon Lifestyles is an organization based in the Principles for Sustainability. We believe that the most natural way to achieve success and to foster sustainability is by working to balance the triple bottom line of people, profit, and planet. We operate with the main purpose of benefiting society, while offering professional and sustainably based programs, products and services.

Our Mission

Audubon Lifestyles assists people in how they live, work, play, stay and learn to promote sustainable living and lifestyles.

Our Vision

To be a sustainable leader assisting people who are looking for sustainable solutions for life and business that are reliable, practical, and efficient.

Nutrient Management Plan

Why do you need a nutrient management plan? Because a nutrient management plan makes sense from the environmental, risk management, and economic points of view. If you manage or own an equestrian facility, how well do you recycle manure? How well do you manage the winter feeding areas? Are you currently using a nutrient management plan that is updated annually by a certified planner? If a Division of Environmental Protection officer visited your operation, could you document how you are minimizing erosion, utilizing manure, and applying fertilizer at the right time and rate?

A nutrient management plan helps to manage commercial fertilizer and animal manure input costs. It also helps facilities to do their part to improve surface water quality. A nutrient management plan for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium should consider all potential sources of nutrients.

Facility managers should not see nutrient management planning as a regulatory hoop to jump through, but as a management tool that can improve profitability. Over the past decade, many equestrian facility managers, and farmers have developed nutrient management plans so they could safely apply nutrients to their land, get the most nutrient value from manure, and ensure water quality is maintained in their local rivers, streams, lakes and ponds.

Even if your state doesn't already require that you have a nutrient management plan, your pastures, your streams and your neighbors will all benefit from your doing so.

Creating a nutrient management plan isn't expensive or difficult, and it shouldn't prevent anyone from wanting to keep horses or from becoming an Audubon Lifestyles Equestrian Facility.



Nutrient

Recommendations

- Clip pastures regularly during the growing season to keep weeds under control. Mowing also promotes more even grazing by cutting back older, less palatable grass.
- Drag pastures to break up and spread manure. This not only makes more of the nutrients available to grass, it also helps kill parasites.
- Pile manure and stall waste as far from water sources and neighboring houses as possible. Cover manure piles with a tarp during wet weather. Compost manure and spread it on gardens or croplands or have it hauled away.
- If you spread manure on your property, do so only during the growing season. Don't spread when the ground is frozen and can't absorb the nutrients.
- Take care of bare spots. Take horses off grass that has been grazed below three inches, and don't let them back on that grass until it is six inches high again.

Nutrient Management Plan

A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) addresses the nutrient, sediment, or pathogen discharges produced at an equestrian facility. Although each plan is unique, nutrient management plans may cover the following key topics:

- Proper storage and handling of manure and maintenance of the storage structure.
- Proper land application of the manure.
- Amount of manure generated on an operation and nutrient content
- Appropriate site management that looks at the risks on a particular field, such as sinkholes, streams running through the field, shallow groundwater, or erosion that needs to be controlled.
- Barnyard and paddock management to minimize runoff
- In-field manure stacking specifications
- Record keeping that documents land practices, so that if anyone has questions, there is proof of what is being done and why.
- Feed management to improve feed efficiency so that nutrient content of manure is reduced.
- Alternative uses for the manure. This component is needed by producers whose operations generate more manure than can be applied on their own land.



References:

[Why a nutrient management plan?](#) Tom Basden, Nutrient Management Specialist
West Virginia University Extension Service

[Environmental equine: Mucking out may merit make-over](#) Allison Rogers
Horse and Horse Information - www.horses-and-horse-information.com