

PUBLIC NOTICE

AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Notice of Availability of Grant Funds

Nutrient Management Assistance Grant

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4 et seq., the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (“NJDA” or “Department”) hereby publishes notice of grants, subject to the availability of funds, in the following program:

a. Name of Grant Program: NJDA Nutrient Management Assistance Grant.

b. Purpose: New Jersey’s Animal Waste Management rules adopted in 2009, N.J.A.C. 2:91, require the implementation of Animal Waste Management Plans (AWMPs) on livestock farms. An AWMP, in part, identifies options to address water quality impacts through Best Management Practices (BMPs). Foremost, all farms regardless of size are required to land apply manure in accordance with BMPs. Farms with eight or more animal units or that apply over 142 tons of manure are required to develop and maintain an AWMP. A BMP is a method, measure, or practice that is implemented to prevent or reduce surface and ground water pollution originating on-farm. A BMP may be used to correct existing problems and to prevent future potential degradation of water resources.

One of the five categories of BMPs is Nutrient Management strategies, which include the development and implementation of a nutrient budget or a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). A nutrient budget is a comparison of nutrient inputs (like fertilizer or manure) to nutrient outputs (like crop uptake or runoff) on a farm or in a specific area, aiming to balance nutrient flows and potential imbalances. A nutrient budget may be a simple spreadsheet containing soil test results, manure test results, and crop nutrient removal rates. A Nutrient Management Plan goes into more detail than a nutrient budget and is

typically written by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Planner or Consultant and is more detailed than a nutrient budget. Templates for the nutrient budget and Nutrient Management Plan may be found on Penn State Extension's Nutrient Management Program Website: <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/nutrient-management/tools>.

The purpose of this grant is to advance the continued implementation of the NJDA Animal Waste Management rules. There are limited resources to help farmers implement AWMPs. A foundational component of AWMP implementation is nutrient management.

Farms of any size are required to follow BMPs for the land application of manure. However, many farms lack the equipment that is needed to efficiently and effectively transport and spread manure. This grant opportunity seeks to provide funding to bring critical tools to farms for the implementation of nutrient management BMPs.

The NJDA seeks applicants who are qualified to purchase and maintain a manure spreader and to establish a community use program for the manure spreader that includes supporting nutrient management BMPs in the community and among users of the manure spreader. Applicants may be New Jersey-based individuals, businesses, cooperatives, not-for-profit organizations (NFPs), or government agencies. Applicants should have a strong working relationship with agricultural producers in their local community, and applicants will be required to ensure that AWMPs containing Nutrient Management Plans or nutrient budgets are developed (or updated) and implemented at a minimum of five farms at which the manure spreader will be used. The activities funded by the grant are to be implemented over a three-year period.

c. Potential Funding:

(i) The Department has a total funding pool of \$100,000 available for the award of individual grants of up to \$25,000. Awarded funds will be used for the purchase of a manure spreader, for spreader equipment maintenance and repair, and for the establishment and management of a community use program. Awarded funds will also be used for outreach and education and the development of an

AWMP containing NMP or nutrient budget for farms utilizing the spreader, all of which is a requirement of the grant. The grant funds are intended to accomplish activities 1 through 5 listed below, over a three-year period, with the opportunity to seek an extension of the period of performance.

1. **Equipment Purchase:** Purchase of a manure spreader and necessary supporting equipment to be used in fulfilling the grant.
2. **Management and Maintenance:** Storage and maintenance of manure spreader and supporting equipment; ensure adherence to biosecurity protocols for equipment use between farms and as part of equipment maintenance.
3. **Farm Use and Planning:** Establish, manage, and organize a community use program for the manure spreader.
4. **Community Connections:** Ensure users have an appropriate plan for manure application; develop a strategy for continued future use; perform manure spreader calibration based on site-specific nutrient budget; if requested, provide nutrient application services to other farms; provide training to users on equipment usage and biosecurity protocols.
5. **Reporting:** Grantees must submit semi-annual reports every six months and a final report at the end of the three-year grant period using templates provided by the NJDA. The required semi-annual reports are expected to include a logbook detailing each AWMP/NMP, manure application specifics, and expenditure and budget updates. The required final report is expected to include the last semi-annual report along with a narrative of program successes and lessons learned.

(ii) Payment of Grant Monies:

1. **Reimbursement:** By default, grantees will be paid grant funds on a reimbursement basis upon the submission of documented project expenses at the time of the submission of semi-annual reports.

2. **Advance Payment:** In the application, grantees may request advance payment for manure spreader purchase expenses, and the NJDA will consider those requests on a case-by-case basis. Any unexpended advance payment shall be returned to the NJDA, upon request, or with the final report at the latest.

(iii) The NJDA reserves the discretion to award grants in a manner that, in the view of the NJDA, maximizes the impact of the total funding pool of \$100,000 that is available for this grant program, which may involve preferring numerous smaller grant awards to a few large grant awards. In addition, the NJDA may take regional diversity among grant recipients into consideration when grant applications are considered and funding determinations are made.

d. Groups or Entities that May Apply for Funding Under the Grant Program: Applicants may be New Jersey based individuals, businesses, cooperatives, NFPs, or government agencies.

e. Qualifications an Applicant Needs to be Considered for the Grant Program: Applicants must be qualified to purchase and maintain a manure spreader and to establish a community-use program for the manure spreader that includes supporting nutrient management BMPs in the community and among users of the manure spreader. Applicants may be New Jersey-based individuals, cooperatives, not-for-profit organizations (NFPs), or government agencies. Applicants should have a strong working relationship with agricultural producers in their local community, and applicants will be required to ensure that AWMPs are developed (or updated) and implemented at a minimum of five farms at which the manure spreader will be used.

f. Procedure for Eligible Entities to Apply for Grant Funds: Applicants must present their grant proposal by completing an application form, a copy of which is available at

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/grants/> or upon request by email sent to anr.grants@ag.nj.gov. The application form asks applicants to describe their proposed project activities and how those activities will be completed. Applicants are also expected to submit a proposed budget for the project activities to be funded by the grant. A successful applicant will also need to agree to additional grant terms and conditions to be set forth in a formal grant agreement to be provided by the NJDA and signed by the parties. The NJDA reserves the right to require applicants to provide additional information, as needed, in order to more fully evaluate the merits of their application. Completed applications may be submitted by email (preferred) in a PDF format, or by regular mail through the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

g. Address for Submitting Grant Applications: It is **preferred and recommended** that applications are sent to the NJDA in a PDF format by email to: anr.grants@ag.nj.gov; Subject Line: Nutrient Management Assistance Grant - [name of applicant].

However, applications may be sent by the USPS to:

NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources
Attention: Sandra Howland
PO Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625-0330

Or, by courier or other hand delivery to:

NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources
Attention: Sandra Howland
200 Riverview Plaza, Third Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625

h. Deadline by Which Applications Must be Received: Applications to the NJDA must be received by [June 16, 2025](#).

i. Date by Which Notices of Decision Shall be Mailed: Applicants will be notified of the decision on their grant application by [August 15, 2025](#).