

## Land Treatment Planners

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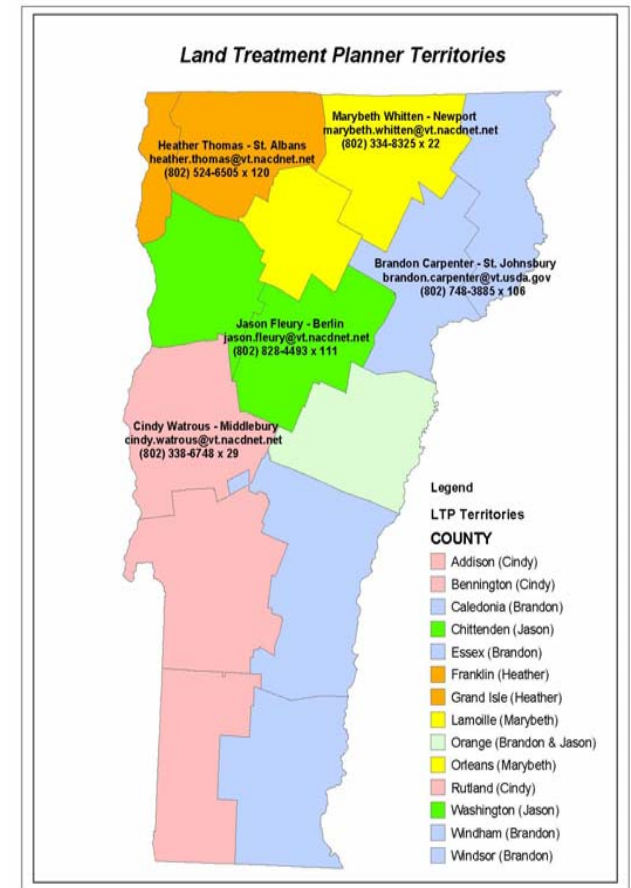
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# GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ON YOUR FARM?



# **A LAND TREATMENT PLAN WILL GET YOU OFF TO A GOOD START!**

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With the increased need for nutrient management planning in Vermont, Conservation Districts, the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS), and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFAM) are looking for ways to help you and your farm.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **What is a Land Treatment Plan (LTP)?**

Simply put, a Land Treatment Plan (LTP) is the base of a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). It is an assessment of your farm's soil and water resources and current land-based management practices. A LTP provides you with detailed information on your farm's soil and water resources, recommendations for continued stewardship, and recommendations for compliance with State and Federal regulations.

### **What does a LTP cost?**

A Land Treatment Plan costs nothing to you! All six land treatment planners are employed by Conservation Districts and their positions are funded through cooperative partnerships between Conservation Districts, USDA NRCS, and VAAFAM.

### **Why develop a LTP?**

A LTP provides the core data needed to develop a USDA NRCS 590 Standard NMP. Since a 590 Standard NMP is required of all Medium Farm Operations (MFOs) by March 2008, a LTP allows you to get there more efficiently. Providing information to your certified nutrient management planner becomes as easy as handing over the LTP. By following recommendations provided in the plan and by continuing the process with a NMP, you can assure soil and water protection and compliance with much of Medium Farm Operation (MFO) and Large Farm Operation (LFO) program requirements.

### **What is in a LTP?**

A completed LTP contains information specific to your farm. Through the course of an interview, the planner will find out which fields you use, your cropping needs, herd size, manure management, and fertilizer management. The planner will then assess soil and water quality field-by-field. The final LTP document is a compilation of information from the interview, maps of your farm, a detailed inventory of soil and water quality, estimated manure production, and a whole-farm nutrient budget. The planner will provide you an assessment of soil and water quality and an assessment of regulatory compliance (if applicable), as well as options for future management. This includes an assessment of soil erosion rates and management options to bring soil erosion to "T", the tolerable soil loss rate, for each field.

### **Is a LTP required of Vermont Farms?**

A NMP is required of all LFOs currently and all MFOs by March 2008. While the LTP itself is not a requirement, having a LTP will sure make getting a NMP done easier. Since all of the info in a LTP is ultimately required in a NMP, why not get this work done at no cost to you?