

Sacramento - Amador Water Quality Alliance

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) For Completing the NMP & Summary Report

FAQ 1. Why is my property listed as High Vulnerability?

- Vulnerability categories (low and high) were determined through the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) prepared by professional hydrogeologists from CH2MHILL at the request of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition). The GAR was tentatively approved by the Regional Water Board in 2016. The land characteristics examined in the GAR include land use, soil type, agronomic factors, existing concentration of nitrates in the groundwater, and depth to groundwater (susceptibility).
- *Note: tentative approval by the Regional Board means that the vulnerability categories and locations may change.*

FAQ 2. Where can I find information about filling out my NMP?

- www.AmadorRCD.org
- www.sacfarmbureau.org
- An NMP must be filled out for each crop/management unit on an annual basis.
- Starting with the 2016 crop year, parcels in high vulnerability areas need to complete a NMP (certified by a Certified Crop Advisor who is a certified nitrogen management plan specialist through CDFA or the member must attend and successfully pass a NMP certification program) AND a NMP Summary Report. The NMP stays on the farm; the NMP Summary Report is returned to the Coalition through SAWQA.

FAQ 3. What if I don't have my 2015 or 2016 NMP?

- The 2016 NMP Worksheet is included in this packet. If you can't locate your 2015 NMP, you can make copies of the form located on the back of the instructions pamphlet or download a blank copy from the Amador RCD website (see above); you may need your PCA or CCA to assist you.
- If you need information on how to fill out the Worksheet, please review the example for 2016 in this packet.

FAQ 4. What do I put in for yield?

- Report on the NMP Summary Report the weight of the crop removed from the field (gross weight) in which ever production unit is suitable for your crop. This would include all part of the crop that is removed from the field including culls, shells/hulls, etc.
- Examples of common production units: LBS, TONS, CWT, Sack/Bushel (30lb), Sack/Bushel (40lb), Sack/Bushel (50lb), Sack/Bushel (60lb)

FAQ 5. Do I need to fill out the NMP Summary Report if 2016 was a non-bearing year?

- Yes, you will still need to fill out the NMP Summary Report for 2016 even if no crop was harvested. If you are reporting on young trees, vines or other perennials that have yet to have a harvestable crop, put NB (Non Bearing) for Box 11 (Actual Yield) on your NMP Worksheet and Summary Report.

FAQ 6. What if I have no yield this crop year due to uncontrollable factors?

- An NMP Summary Report will still need to be filled out and submitted if the crop has not been harvested or a crop was expected but due to unforeseen circumstances no crop was harvested. On the NMP Worksheet & Summary Report, put NY (No Yield) for Box 11. The Coalition understands that the growing season is varied and will record No Yield for 2016 in its Summary Report.

FAQ 7. How do I report multiple crops planted on a single parcel (APN)?

- If you have both peaches and almonds on the same parcel, use the Management Unit Parcel Inventory form to create a Management Unit for each crop, include the same APN number for each and indicate how much acreage is allocated to each crop. A NMP Summary Report will need to be filled out for each crop.
- If you grow two crops on the same piece of land in the same year, see FAQ 9.

FAQ 8. Do I need to complete an NMP Summary Report for Irrigated Pasture?

- No, if NO external nitrogen is applied. In February 2016, Regional Board approved that NMP Worksheets and NMP Summary Reports are not required for irrigated pasture to which no external nitrogen is applied.
- However, we recommend completing NMP Worksheets and returning the NMP Summary Report to us stating so (zero nitrogen was applied) to ensure compliance with ILRP/Order and to avoid any unnecessary follow-ups from us.
- Note: direct nutrient returns from livestock are not considered a fertilizer application to irrigated pasture.

FAQ 9. How do I include double-cropped fields?

- For double-cropped fields (two consecutive crops on the same land harvested in a single growing season), create two Management Units on your Management Unit Parcel Inventory, one for each crop. It is important to separate the crops as nitrogen application and demand may vary between crop types. Only the nitrogen applied for that specific crop needs to be recorded; you do not need to count the nitrogen application of an earlier crop with the nitrogen applied for the second crop grown in the same year.