

Amendment to Resolution on Nutrient Management Regulations Phase 2

That the CFFO policy statement “CFFO Response to Phase Two Regulations Made under the Nutrient Management Act, 2002” as adopted on January 29, 2003 be amended by deleting from the first resolution the phrase: **“and have them certified by an independent crop advisor”** and change this to: **“and either have their nutrient management plan certified by an independent crop advisor or take training every five years to do their own nutrient management plan and both be available at a minimal cost.”**

Adopted by CFFO Sheep Producers Committee
March 18, 2003

Modified by CFFO Pork Producers Committee
March 24, 2003

With these changes resolution #1 will read as follows:

Therefore be it resolved;

THAT CFFO call for a time out and a reassessment of the resource management approach that is being enshrined into law by the Nutrient Management Act.

THAT the act tries to do too much through the one window of nutrient management strategies and plans.

THAT CFFO recommends that the Act and its regulations be divided into two parts:

1. one that requires all farms with more than \$7,000 in gross farm sales¹ to maintain formal nutrient management plans; **and either have their nutrient management plan certified by an independent crop advisor or take training every five years to do their own nutrient management plan and both be available at a minimal cost;** and
2. one that enables resource management through a combination of environmental payments and standards for land-based activities.

Reasons:

1. A certified crop advisor will have to spend a fair bit of time reviewing a nutrient management plan and its background information such as soil tests in order to certify the plans appropriateness. That means a significant cost.
2. Even if the costs of certifying a plan can be kept to \$250, that is serious money in the sheep industry and is not warranted for the minimal benefits that can be expected.
3. This will create yet another stumbling block for the small operator when the regulations themselves already have many producers thinking about quitting. (Applies more to other commodities than sheep producers.)
4. Support for the principles of nutrient management planning will be higher if good training is provided. Good training will increase the likelihood that nutrient management plans are followed in practice.
5. Using a format and a process that is familiar, like the Pesticide Certification Program and the Livestock Medicine Education Program, will make it easier for all participants.
6. Having someone else create plans and/or certify plans will not guarantee that the plans will be followed in practice.
7. The public perception of small and medium farms, especially sheep farms, is warm and fuzzy. For them there is no public relations benefit from certification. There is more public relations benefit from being able to tell the public that farmers themselves are well trained.

¹ Any farm that is required to register as a farm business.