



VPFP Vermont Pay For Phosphorus Program

Performance-based payments for phosphorus reductions on farms

About the Program

The Vermont Pay for Phosphorus Program (VPFP) provides performance-based payments to farmers for reductions of phosphorus (P) losses from their fields. Reductions represent how farm management has improved from the management assumed in the Lake Champlain Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (LCB TMDL). Enrolled farms will receive payment for annual net reductions from the TMDL baseline, above a threshold.

Program Payments

- First time enrollees, regardless of performance, are eligible for a data entry payment of \$15 per acre they enroll in the program — up to \$4,000.
- Technical assistance services are available to help farmers with data entry and using FarmPREP.
- Farms whose data has been entered can choose to be entered into a competitive pool for annual P reduction payment contracts, which will pay \$100 per pound of eligible phosphorus reductions per year, up to an annual cap of \$50,000.

Why is this program unique?

Most current payment programs pay cost-share for practice implementation. VPFP pays for the outcomes of practices: it recognizes that conservation practices generate value to the public and directly compensates farms for that value. In this approach, farmers have the flexibility to implement conservation practices they know will work for their own operations.

Eligibility

- Vermont farm that manages crop and/or hay fields
- Have an up-to-date Nutrient Management Plan that meets the criteria required for your farm size based on the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)
- In Good Standing with state and federal requirements.

To learn more or apply:

Visit our webpage at agriculture.vermont.gov/vpfp

Contact: Brodie.Haenke@vermont.gov or 802-636-7852

Field-By-Field Results

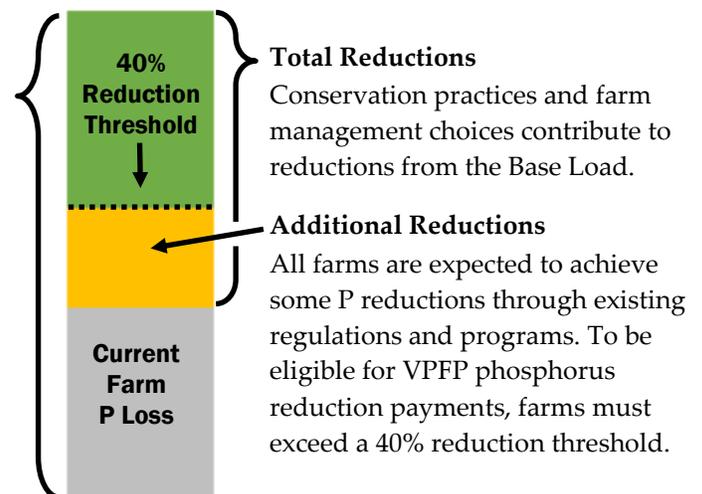
Each farm field will be entered into the Farm Phosphorus Reduction Planner (FarmPREP), which will model phosphorus loss based on soil, slope, and field management.

FarmPREP Inputs:

- Field Boundaries
- Soil Test Results
- Crop Rotations
- Tillage Practices
- Manure and Fertilizer Rates
- Conservation Practices

Modeled Base Load

Based on the same agronomic assumptions used in the LCB TMDL, each farm field will be assigned a baseline annual P loss. This baseline is the point of comparison with current management for calculating total P reductions.



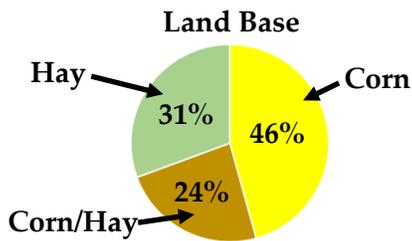
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Farm Case Studies

The examples below are based on Vermont farms that provided their data from the 2021 crop season to support our research. Each example illustrates how unique farms implementing various field management practices may perform in the VPPF program and the annual phosphorus reduction payments they may be eligible for if they enroll.

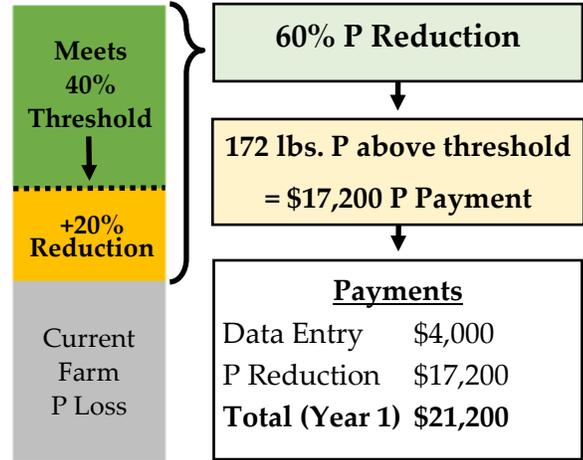
Farm #1

This dairy farm manages 430 acres with fields primarily located on poorly drained silt loams in corn, hay, and corn/hay rotations.



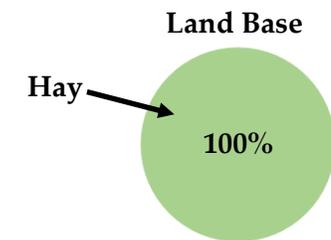
Field Management

- Nutrient Management Planning
- Extended crop rotations
- No-till on annual crops
- Cover crops
- Surface applied manure



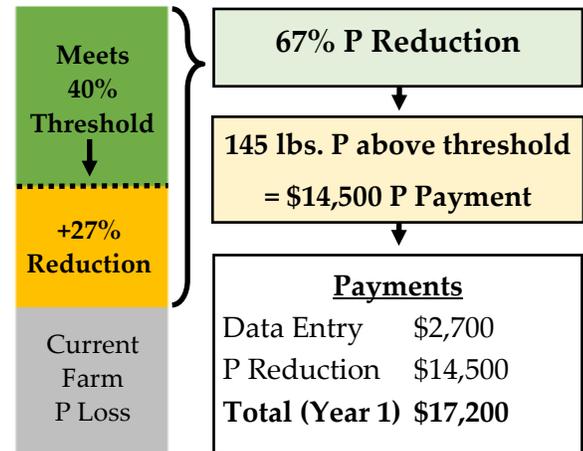
Farm #2

This dairy farm manages 180 acres with fields primarily located on poorly drained silt loams all in permanent hay and pasture.



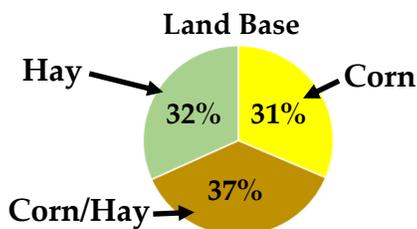
Field Management

- Nutrient Management Planning
- Crop to hay seed downs
- Surface applied manure



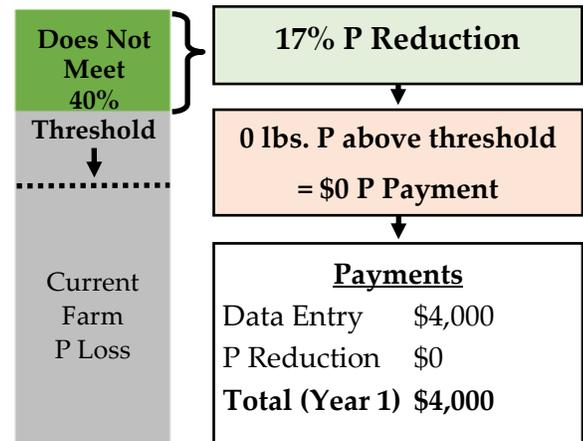
Farm #3

This dairy farm manages 1220 acres with fields primarily located on poorly drained silt clays in corn/hay rotations, hay, and corn.



Field Management

- Nutrient Management Planning
- Extended crop rotations
- Conventional tillage
- Cover crops
- Surface applied manure



This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Regional Conservation Partnership Program Agreement number 2145. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition, any reference to specific brands or types of products or services does not constitute or imply an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for those products or services.