

VPPF Vermont Pay-For-Phosphorus Program



Pay-for-performance is an innovative approach that pays a farmer for the pounds of phosphorus reduced by implementing conservation practices, as opposed to paying farmers a portion of the cost to install a practice.

- **Pays on results** improving cost-effectiveness and accelerating implementation
- **Flexibility for farms** to manage fields how they choose
- **Complements** existing State and Federal assistance programs (e.g. EQIP, FAP)
- **Statewide** voluntary program available to eligible farms
- Incentive payments available for program enrollment regardless of farm performance

Each field across a farm will be entered into the *Farm Phosphorus Reduction Planner* (FarmPREP), which will model phosphorus (P) runoff from fields based on field-specific soils, slope, climate, crop, tillage and nutrient information. P runoff will be modeled from assumed historic management and compared with current management. Any resulting P runoff reductions that exceed those required under regulatory compliance will receive a payment per pound of phosphorus.

Eligibility Requirements

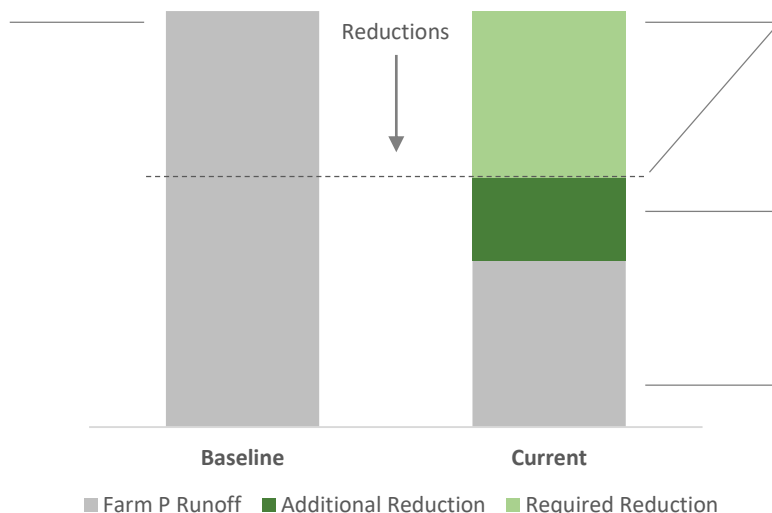
- Actively farming in Vermont
- All fields managed (owned and leased) by the farm
- Annual cropland and hayland
- Up-to-date Nutrient Management Plan or Land Treatment Plan
- Meet existing state & federal environmental regulations, including VT's Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)

Contact

Ryan Patch (802)-272-0323
ryan.patch@vermont.gov
www.agriculture.vermont.gov/vppf

Base Farm P Runoff will be modelled based on historic agronomic assumptions and will act as the baseline from which P runoff reductions are calculated.

Reductions can be achieved via improved nutrient management or conservation practices.



Regulatory Reductions/Threshold corresponds to the required P reductions that are estimated to be met through existing programs.

Additional Reductions beyond the threshold will be paid through the VPPF program based on a set price per pound of P.

Current Farm P Runoff based on a farm's current management.