



5. Hold a meeting with the grower to fill out the farm information worksheet and to determine management practices, typical rotations and whether it makes sense to break up fields during the writing of the NMP. It is helpful to get a copy of the growers records at this point as well as to talk about where the grower plans to locate crops for the next growing season. Collect information that will be

## VT P Index for Vegetable/Fruit Producers

The Vermont P index is now available in a slightly modified form to meet the needs of nutrient management planning for vegetable farms. The modification is in the field for crop/vegetation type. The user's options include vegetable options grouped by P removal rate (low, medium and high) and apples. Examples of crops included in each category are given in the vegetable tab of the P-index spreadsheet.

## Veg NMP Worksheets

Farm Info Sheet – fill in following instructions

### Field Info –

Field Name – what the producer calls the field

Tract & Field # - FSA designated tract and field numbers

Field Acres - FSA acreage

Dominant Soil - from soil map

Limiting Soil - soil with characteristics limiting crop growth that is found in a field, can be the same as dominant soil

Hydrologic Group, Dominant Drainage Class, Water Table Depth, Flood Potential, and Depth to Bedrock of dominant soil (found on soil fact sheet)

RUSLE2 Soil Loss as Planned – (linked cell) number from RUSLE2 calculations, enter number on P-index sheet

Water Quality Site Considerations – list any specific site considerations that pertain to water quality at this site (for example the presence of springs, streams, wells, the need for a buffer, etc.

VT P-Index

- Choose appropriate situation for each field for region and elevation.
- Input available Phosphorus and reactive Aluminum from soil test results.
- (linked cell) Organic amendment 1 and 2 fill in from individual field sheets as well as inorganic fertilizer amounts.
- Adjust application time of year, application method and time to incorporation to mirror the field situation.
- Enter in erosion rate (Rusle2 tons/acre), soil series, surface cover % (estimate cover based on field situation), Crop vegetation type (see chart on bottom of PI Instructions tab).
- Enter total distance to stream, vegetative buffer width, manure spreading setback and sediment trap structure or other erosion control where applicable.

Rotation – fill in the rotation to the best of your ability using information from past crop seasons and intended future plans.

Soil Test Schedule – each field is required to have a soil test taken a minimum of once every three years.

Soil Test Results – A summary table of field by field soil test results. These can be found on the soil test results. Other nutrients can be included in this summary if they are of concern to a grower.

Table 1.

Vermont soil test categories expressed as ppm in elemental form

	Low	Medium	Optimum	High	Excessive
	ppm				
Available P	0-2	2.1-4	4.1-7	7.1-20	>20
K	0-8	8-14	14-20	20-34	>34

grown within the same field, or b) planning for different crops if the grower is unsure what he/she will put in the field.

The field name, acreage and soil test results are transferred from previous worksheets where this information was entered. The user will enter year first used, ownership status (owned or rented), year of last soil test, and soil texture at the top of the worksheet.

In the individual crop sections, the user will enter crop to be grown, target pH and acreage of crop (if different from field acreage). Crop needs are entered either from the recommendation given on the soil test or as determined from the New England Vegetable Management Guide. There are two columns on the far right that can be used for other nutrients that are recommended besides N, P and K.

The user enters nutrient credits from organic matter, cover crop/plowed down sod, manure/compost last year and manure/compost this year (as calculated from the N credits worksheet). Next the user enters planned fertilizer applications in lbs/acre and formulation. There is space for four nutrient applications, and a running tally of remaining nutrient need is kept at the bottom of each section. A negative number indicates an excess.

### Summary

After filling out an individual field sheet for each field, the user can print a summary of soil test results, crop needs and planned fertilizer applications.