

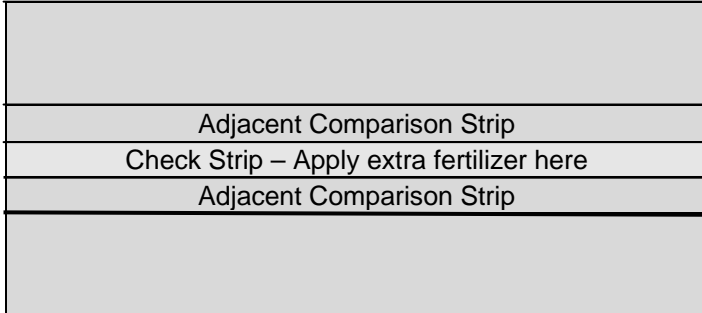
# NUTRIENT BMP CHALLENGE® - CHECK STRIP INFORMATION FORM California

Complete for Each Field Enrolled – Submit within one week of planting

**Grower name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field name or number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Acres:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check strip must be between 40 and 80 feet in width and run the length of the planting row, excluding end rows. Place in a representative area (see protocol on reverse).



*At harvest, yield on the check strip will be compared to the yield on the one or both of the immediately adjacent comparison strips.*

← Check strip = 40' to 80' wide  
← Comparison strip, same size as check strip, one on either side of the check strip.

<- Strips run length of field (exclude end rows) ->

Check strip width: \_\_\_\_\_ ft.      Length (exclude endrows): \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

**Check strip location and identification (Complete A or B):**

A.  GPS Coordinates

Corner 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Corner 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Corner 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Corner 4: \_\_\_\_\_

B.  Distance and direction from landmark

Corner 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Landmark: \_\_\_\_\_

Corner 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Landmark: \_\_\_\_\_

Corner 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Landmark: \_\_\_\_\_

Corner 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Landmark: \_\_\_\_\_

How much nitrogen will be applied to the check strip from all sources (lbs. N/acre)? \_\_\_\_\_

How much phosphorus will be applied to the check strip from all sources (lbs. P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/acre)? \_\_\_\_\_

How much potassium will be applied to the check strip from all sources (lbs. K/acre)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Crop Advisor Certification:**

**I have located the check strip in this management unit following the attached protocol.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:** Ladi Asgill Sustainable Conservation 201 Needham Street Modesto, CA 95354, or fax to (209) 576-7975.

# NUTRIENT BMP CHALLENGE<sup>SM</sup> - CHECK STRIP PLACEMENT PROCEDURE

Establish one check strip in each enrolled field. The check strip must be 40 to 80 feet wide and run the length of the field, excluding any endrows. Leave room for immediately adjacent strips on either side of the check strip equal in length and width to the check strip. One or both of these strips will be harvested and compared to yield on the check strip.

**NOTE:** Check strip should be wide enough to allow the farmer to harvest at least three passes. For example, if the farmer has an eight-head harvester and plants in 30-inch rows, the check strip must be at least 60 feet wide. This will allow three passes (8 rows each) of the check strip to be harvested for the yield comparison.

Step 1: Confirm with the farmer what field(s) will be enrolled.

Step 2: Determine the approximate location of the check strip and adjacent BMP strips on a map. The check strip and adjacent strips must be located in a uniform portion of the field. If possible, avoid areas that have variable soil types, slopes, irregular boundaries, variable fertility and/or tile lines running parallel to the row.

If it is not possible to avoid non-uniform areas, take the following steps:

- (i) If a slope, rocky area or any other feature breaks up the uniformity of the field, locate the strips so they run across the non-uniformity such that the check strip and adjacent BMP strips are affected equally by it.
- (ii) If the field has a small outcropping or a depression, avoid putting these in the check strip altogether. Locate the check and BMP strips on one side or the other of these features.
- (iii) If the field has two or more soil types, place the strips such that they cross the different soil types at right angles where possible. Make sure that the various soil types affect each of the strips equally.

Step 3: Travel to the location of the enrolled acres and make any adjustments in location needed to make the strips uniform. Identify the actual physical location of the check strip with Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates and/or a measurement from an identifiable landmark (field corner, boundary marker, etc.).

Step 4: Mark the strip locations for the farmer with flags or other appropriate markers.

Step 5: Complete the Check Strip Information Form and submit to the NUTRIENT BMP CHALLENGE. Thank you!

**Contour Strips** - If the acres to be covered are in contour strips that are not wide enough to contain both a check strip and two adjacent BMP strips, select one strip that best represents the productive capabilities of the covered acres and that is appropriate for use as a check strip. Split the contour strip in half and have the farmer apply the BMP rate of fertilizer on one half of the contour strip. The other half will serve as the check strip. Alternatively, the crop advisor may place the check strip in one contour strip, and the BMP strips in immediately adjacent contour strips, provided the three contour strips are reasonably uniform and representative of the balance of the field.