

Example of advisory visits

Crop farm



START Start-up visit

- › Crop rotation and soil fertility
- › Nitrogen strategy
- › Climate check-up
- › Repeated nutrient balance
- › Phosphorus strategy
- › Plant protection
- › Soil compaction
- › Wetland construction

FOLLOW-UP Follow-up visit

Dairy or beef farm



START Start-up visit

- › Nutrients in feed
- › Ley production
- › Pasture use strategy
- › Climate check-up
- › Repeated nutrient balance
- › Stable construction
- › Plant protection
- › Phosphorus strategy
- › Soil compaction
- › Wetland construction

FOLLOW-UP Follow-up visit

Pig farm



START Start-up visit

- › Crop rotation and soil fertility
- › Crop rotation and soil fertility
- › Climate check-up
- › Repeated nutrient balance
- › Nitrogen strategy with manure
- › Stable construction
- › Plant protection
- › Phosphorus strategy
- › Soil compaction
- › Wetland construction

FOLLOW-UP Follow-up visit

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Focus on Nutrients



Focus on Nutrients offers advice that is free of charge to the farmer. The advice benefits both the environment and the farm finances. The purpose of the project is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and nutrient leaching as well as to ensure a safe use of plant protection products.

Focus on Nutrients started in 2001 and currently has more than 8000 members. The project is a cooperation between the Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket), The Swedish Federation of Farmers (LRF) and 17 regional municipalities in southern and middle Sweden. Focus on nutrients is funded by the Swedish Rural Development Program and by environmental taxes paid by farmers.

More than 35 000 farm visits have been carried out since the beginning of the project. The on-farm visits are performed by more than 200 advisors that are employed by 45 different advisory firms across Sweden.

Generally, a farmer needs to farm more than 50 hectares of land and/or have more than 25 livestock units in order to qualify for the individual farm visits.



Focus on Nutrients has a very systematic approach to ensure the quality of the advisory services as well as to ensure the environmental benefits of the program. When a farmer signs up to become a member the first step is a start-up visit, which includes calculating the farm's nutrient balance. A plan for future advisory visits is also made during the start-up visit. The advisory plan is based on the specific challenges that face the farm which in turn vary depending on the type of production and environmental impact that the farm has. There are over 30 different types of advisory visits to choose from.

After approximately 3 years or 4-6 visits there is a follow-up visit where the farmer and advisor go through the changes that have been made on the farm and which environmental as well as economic benefits



these changes have resulted in. To achieve any long-term changes on the farm it is important to make repeated visits.

Beyond the on-farm advice the project management of Focus on Nutrients also arranges courses for both farmers (on a regional level) and advisors (on a national level). Focus on Nutrients has a website where farmers that are not eligible for the individual advice can calculate their own nutrient balances. The website also contains tools to help farmers make efficient use of nutrients, such as manure spreading and how to optimize nitrogen rates. Farmers can sign up via the website to receive twice-weekly emails providing the latest research reports or other related news. Informational publications, newsletters and marketing are also important parts of the overall project.