

June 15, 2009

To: Snap Plus Users
From: DATCP Water Quality Section Staff
Re: Snap Plus v1.131: Reinstating the N allowance and other Important Snap Plus changes

The 1.130 version of Snap Plus released on June 3rd included changes to the N flags. Once opened in the 1.130 version of Snap Plus, some of your plans may have red N flags in 2009 or later when they were not red in the 1.129 version because of a decision to eliminate a 9 lb/ac extra N allowance.

After hearing comments from Snap Plus users that this was a significant change that planners should have been aware of and allowed to have input on, we agreed to reinstate the same N flags as version 1.129 into Snap Plus version 1.131. Snap Plus versions 1.121 through 1.129 included a 9 lb extra N allowance so fields can be grouped using the same application rate that matches N recommendations as closely as possible for corn and other non-legume crops. Warning flags are triggered once the planned application reaches 10 lbs over the recommendation.

We hope that Snap Plus users will install this new version and review plans in it before submitting them for programs, ordinances, or permits.

We are attempting to establish a process to reduce problems with Snap Plus releases that may include:

1. Asking for user input on suggested changes and more beta testers for new versions.
2. At least a one month comment period prior to release; and
3. Releasing one time per year.

We are truly sorry for any problems we have caused you and all Snap Plus users. We welcome any comment or suggestion regarding how to improve communication with the NM planning community regarding Snap-Plus and future program releases.

Sincerely,

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Snap-Plus: New in version 1.130 and 1.131

New Features:

- Strip cropping and Filter strip management practices
- Lime applications report
- Crops added:
 - Ginseng
 - Lima bean
 - Peas to corn silage
 - Winter wheat (grain+ straw) to sorghum sudangrass
 - Winter wheat (grain + straw) to small grain & legume silage
- A new version of RUSLE2 (RomeDLL.dll) is included. This version fixes problems with bad soil loss calculations that occurred in the past with double crops.
- Soil test import files can now be imported as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets (.xls files) in addition to csv and txt files.
- The "Save As" wizard has been simplified down to a single step.

Report changes:

- Cropping Trends report – Added "Corn silage" and "Seeding hay" columns.
- Soil Test Sample Log – Added soil symbol, series name and subfarm name.
- 590 Assessment Plan reports – "Red" cells have bold outline when report is printed in grayscale.
- Spreading and NM Sorted by Crop – column heading order fixed in CSV report.
- All reports – "Prepared" date changed to "Printed" date on all report headers
- In previous version, text from the csv reports would occasionally get converted by MS Excel into dates or exponential notation. This should no longer happen.

Data compression changes:

- Database files can now be compressed directly to a Flash drive.
- Databases are now compressed (zipped) within a folder with the database name.

The following issues have been fixed in 1.131:

- A rounding problem in the N flagging code could cause a red flag when the displayed number looked ok. This was only a problem at the high end of the allowed N rates range.
- A stuck progress bar could prevent users from getting back to the main SnapPlus window.
- On the Soil Test Report setup, if the "most recent" feature is selected, no soil tests are included in the report.
- The Application Wizard displayed a debugging message which had to be dismissed for each application being set up.
- Fertilizer applications in Step 4 of the Rotation Wizard "add crops and applications" process could show spread method as "injected" instead of "subsurface". This was a display problem only, user data was not affected.

The following issues were fixed in 1.130:

- “Subsurface” fertilizer applications added with the Change Rotation Data wizard would have the spreading method entered as “missing.” This update will notify users and fix databases where applications with missing spreading methods are found.
- Winter wheat with interseeded red clover crop was not giving the proper N credit for a legume cover crop in the following year. This crop was also triggering an inaccurate crop sequence error message.
- In the Change Data part of the Rotation Wizard, changing the legume credit information was not correctly updating the 2nd year credits.
- The crop selection lists in the rotation wizard for new farms within a database were sometimes blank.
- The Soluble PI in the “Details” section of the cropping screen was displayed higher than it actually was. This problem did not affect the total PI value displayed in SnapPlus or in reports.
- The file that tells SnapPlus which soils have new soil symbols or names (SnapSoilSymbolUpdate.xml) was wrong in version 1.129; this file error might have meant some users had to update soil name changes by hand.
- Data compression sometimes caused the program to crash.
- Deleting a farm from a database sometimes overwrote the county and crop lists on the Farm page.
- If a database failed to open, then the program might not open any other database until it was shut down and restarted.
- Converting an older SnapPlus database to a new version could cause missing data errors in model calculations until models were run manually.
- Changing a fertilizer name in the Nutrient Application Log caused a memory error.
- Orphaned record in fertilizer application table caused a report error.
- Line feeds in "Notes" columns were removed during export since they caused problems during re-importing.

Minor changes that don't affect SnapPlus results:

- Changed spelling of Michigame soil to the NRCS spelling of Michigame .
- Tillage “Field Cultivation” changed to “Spring Cultivation” for “Corn silage to small grain cover crop”.
- “Distance to Water” on Field Data changed to “Distance to Perennial Water”.
- Changed labels for field and season notes dialog box.

DISCLAIMER: All significant changes to the software are included in this list, and we believe it reports any changes that may impact model results. However some minor changes are not reported in this document.

Users of this software are responsible for complying with applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules or regulations governing nutrient management systems. Use of this software does not imply compliance with all applicable federal, state or local laws. Implementation of nutrient management plans created with this software may not eliminate runoff of surface applied nutrient sources that could result in a violation of law.