



What is Fertcare®?

The Fertcare® brand provide a nationally recognised image for best practice fertiliser supply, advice and contract application. Fertcare is about promoting productivity while protecting the environment.

Fertcare® is a national training and accreditation program designed to raise the skills and knowledge of everyone involved in handling fertiliser and soil ameliorant.

The AFSA Code of Practice has provided the basis for the Australian fertilizer industry's product stewardship program Fertcare.

The code is instilled in the Fertcare® Level A training program and the national competency standards for that training.

AFSA members are strongly encouraged to undertake the appropriate level of Fertcare® training, and attain accreditation as a formal and practical means of proving their ability to meet the AFSA Code of Practice.

- *Fertcare Level A* is suitable for people involved in the direct handling of fertilisers
- *Fertcare Level B* is suitable for sales staff who spend a significant portion of their time discussing fertilizer with growers
- *Fertcare Level C* is suitable for people providing soil and fertilizer advice

Fertcare Accredited Advisor Program is separate to, but complementary to Level C. It provides farmers and other stakeholders with confidence that farmers are receiving soil and fertilizer advice based on soil and plant testing of a high standard and that the process of making recommendations, the underlying supporting data, sampling methodology and laboratory competence are based on good practice and accepted science in Australia.

Fertcare is a joint venture between the Australian Fertiliser Services Association and Fertilizer Australia and both representative bodies have a strong commitment to managing environmental and food safety issues associated with fertilisers and the national stewardship program, Fertcare is central to this effort.

The program is managed by the Fertcare Management Committee which includes representatives of both bodies.



For more information go to www.fertcare.com.au



What is Accu-Spread®?

The Accu-Spread® logo provides professional contractors, farmers and natural resource managers with peace of mind; knowing farmers that the correct rate of fertilizer is being applied exactly where they want it in the landscape.

Uneven application means some areas of the paddock receive insufficient fertiliser and yield may be reduced in these parts of the field, while other areas receive more than the crop requires which both reduces profit in these parts of the paddock and significantly increases the risk of off-site environmental damage. Independent analysis of uneven urea spreading has revealed it can easily result in \$25 - \$40/ha reduction in wheat return for southern Australia.

Accu-Spread® is a programme that involves the independent testing and accreditation of fertiliser spreading equipment for accuracy and evenness of spreading.

It contributes significantly to quality assurance, productivity improvement, environment sustainability and management of risk. When a machine is Accu-Spread® accredited, the operator will know the capacity of the machine to apply a number of nominated products to an industry standard of accuracy.

Regular Accu-Spread testing is a key component of a spreader operator being able to provide quality assurance to clients. Untested machines may be spreading unevenly, leading to striping in topdressed crops, to costly liability claims and therefore unprofessional and unreliable service.

The primary benefits of having an Accu-Spread tested machine are to:

- Optimize returns from fertiliser investments through even application
- minimise environmental damage through over application of nutrients
- ensure the appropriate amount of fertiliser is evenly applied
- provide operators with information about the performance of their machines
- provide farmer customers with confidence that spreader operators are accurately applying the **right amount of fertiliser in the right place**
- improve efficiency for spreader operators
- improve operating standards in the industry
- provide operators with a risk management tool in the form of an independent test of the performance of their machine.

Farmers and fertiliser spreading contractors are encouraged to have their machines accredited under the Fertcare Accu-Spread program, so that they know the spread pattern of their machines. If they don't have this information they will not know whether they are spreading the right amount of fertiliser in the right place.

An improved understanding of the performance of the spreading machine will enable modifications to optimise performance, reducing operating costs and improving the productivity outcome for the farmer.

Accu-Spread is a key component of the Australian fertiliser industry's Fertcare initiative and for more information go to www.fertcare.com.au and click on Accurate Spreading

An Accu-Spread tested machine and a Fertcare trained operator are essential elements in best practice fertiliser application.