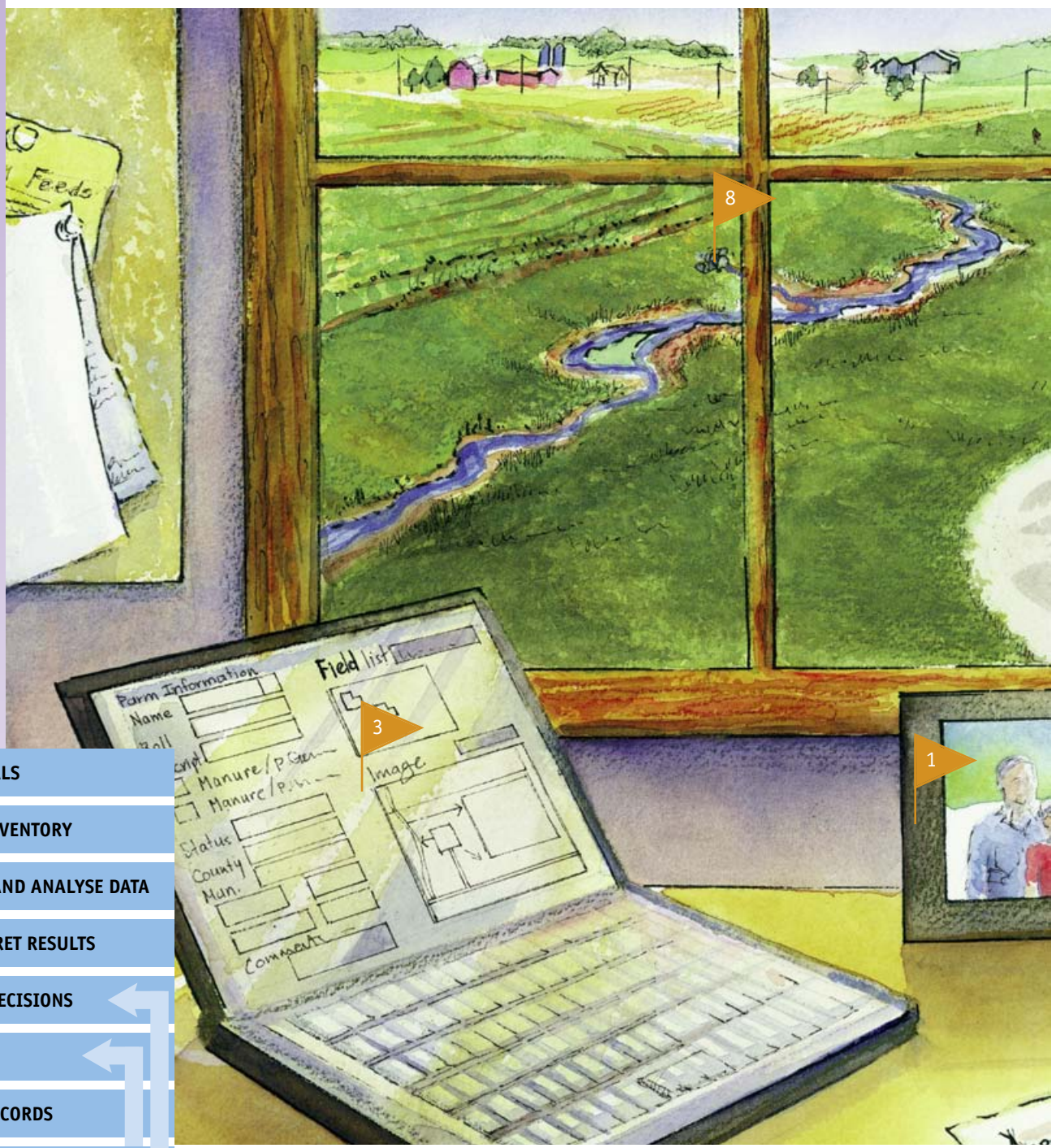
# 10 STEPS TO MAKING IT WORK

Nutrient management planning is an in-depth process. But it doesn't have to be overwhelming – especially when you take it step-by-step.

The illustration on the next two pages and the flow chart below give you a bird's-eye view of the process, so you'll know what to expect. In subsequent chapters, we'll explain how to develop each step and then put the entire plan into action.

| STEPS | DESCRIPTION | KEY COMPONENTS |
|---|---|---|
| 1 SET GOALS | State your direction for nutrient management planning – helps with decision-making | • Establish why you're doing the plan<br>• Seek advice<br>• Create a vision for what the plan will accomplish |
| 2 TAKE INVENTORY | Create a picture in time of what's currently available within your operation – if you don't know what you've got, you don't know what you need | • Identify resources on the farm<br>• Describe site characteristics<br>• Detail current management practices |
| 3 INPUT AND ANALYZE DATA | Apply what you have against what you need to do | • Use NMAN and MSTOR<br>• Determine land base requirements<br>• Conduct risk assessment |
| 4 INTERPRET RESULTS | Develop options, based on your data analysis – to manage risk, decrease input costs, and handle all nutrients generated | • List possible management practices<br>• Identify changes to structures, facilities and equipment<br>• Remember the systems approach |
| 5 MAKE DECISIONS | Select options to meet your goals | • Consider personal and business goals<br>• Use available resources<br>• Set proper application rates<br>• Honour separation distances |
| 6 ACT | "Walk the talk" to meet your goals | • Make an operational plan<br>• Complete day-to-day activities<br>• Account for the impact of outside forces (e.g., weather) |
| 7 KEEP RECORDS | Document what actually takes place – develop your own information for future planning, while showing accountability for your actions | Maintain:<br>• application records<br>• livestock records<br>• cropping records<br>• monitoring records |
| 8 MONITOR | Observe the impact of what you do to determine:<br>• is production on track?<br>• are ground and surface water protected?<br>• are nutrients cycling properly | Monitor:<br>• nutrient levels in soil and manure as they relate to crop performance<br>• water quality in wells and tiles<br>• livestock performance<br>• nuisance impacts |
| 9 ADJUST | Fine-tune your plan, and upgrade technology where appropriate | • Use information from record-keeping and monitoring<br>• Modify plan by repeating Steps 3 to 6 |
| 10 PLAN FOR THE UNEXPECTED | Develop a contingency plan | • Identify resources<br>• Communicate to others involved<br>• Document actions |

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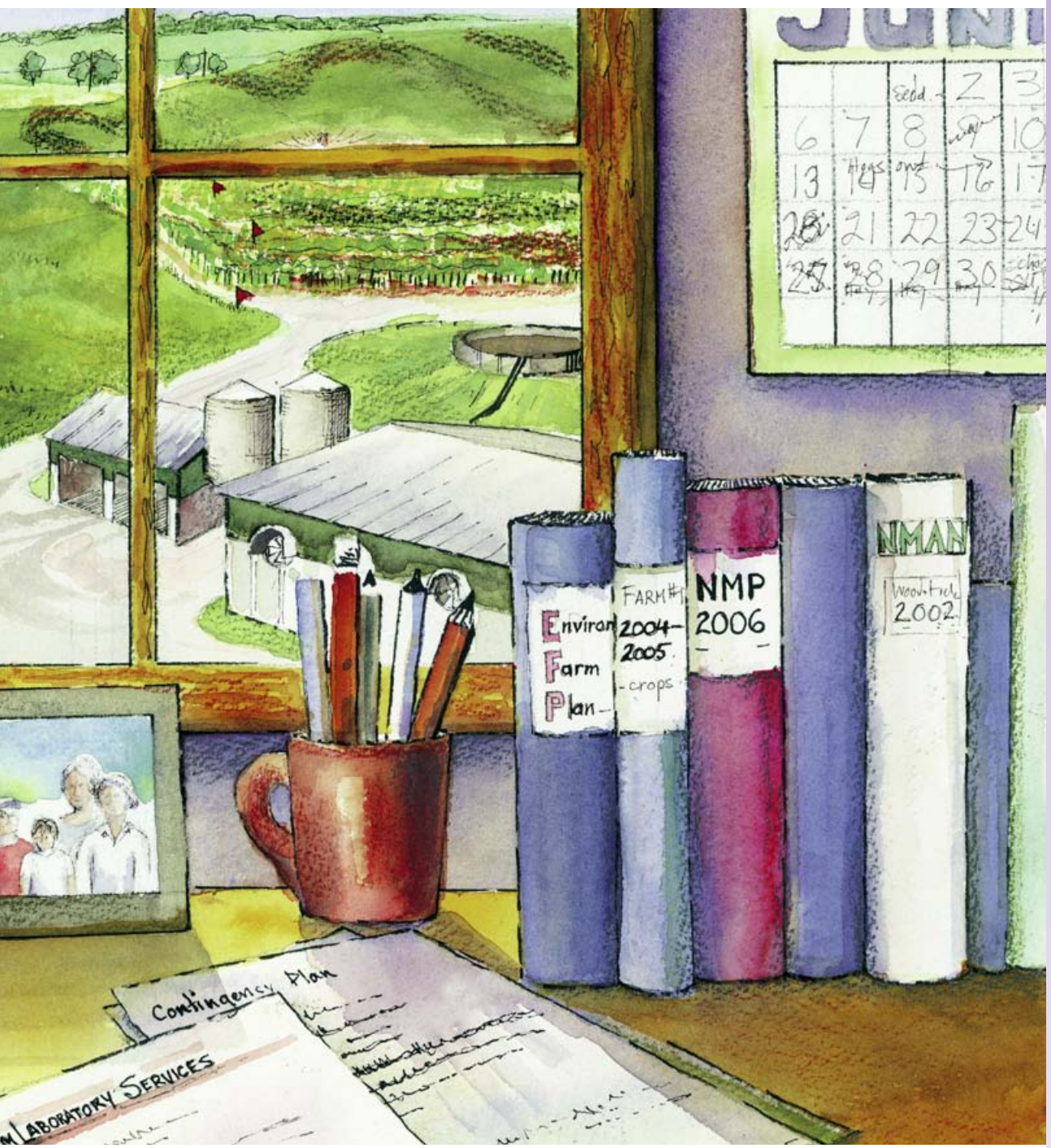
8. MONITOR
9. ADJUST
10. PLAN FOR THE UNEXPECTED

**Remember that your plan is not and should not be set in stone. Planning is a dynamic process, just as your operation is. That's why some steps are revisited, whether from season to season or year to year, as you evaluate your progress.**


JUNE
Seed
Hogs out
EFP
Environ
Farm
Plan
FARM #1
2004-
2005
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NMP
2006
NMAN
Woodfield
2002
Contingency Plan
LABORATORY SERVICES