

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)

Policy Changes



The NRCS's national CNMP policy and CNMP certification requirements were updated in October 2015 with significant changes to the development process and final CNMP product.

USDA's goal is for Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) owners and operators to take voluntary actions to minimize potential water and air pollutants from storage facilities, confinement areas, and land application areas. The objective of a CNMP is to provide AFO owners and operators with a plan to manage manure and organic byproducts by combining conservation practices and management activities into a conservation system that, when implemented, will control soil erosion and protect water and air quality.

When Are CNMPs Needed?

A CNMP is prepared when NRCS or NRCS-designated agents are providing technical or financial assistance to an AFO to address manure or wastewater handling and storage, treatment, and nutrient management that involves the application of manure and wastewater associated with the AFO. A current and up-to-date CNMP must have been completed before receiving funding.

Financial and Technical Assistance is Available Through NRCS

1. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) development:

Currently, several options may be considered to develop a CNMP:

a. Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)

– Producers/operators can apply for a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP 102) to contract a Technical Service Provider (TSP) to write their CNMP. All CAP applications are taken on a



year round basis through the general Environmental Quality Incentives Program with the first sign-up cutoff on November 18, 2016, and a subsequent second and third sign-up cutoff on February 17, 2017 and April 21, 2017. CAPs must be developed by a TSP registered with NRCS in the TechReg database. TechReg is web-based and accessible to the public for viewing registered TSPs or NRCS can aide in providing applicants with a list.

b. NRCS or affiliate-prepared Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan – NRCS or affiliated staff who have received specialized training can write CNMPs per a participant request and dependent on office workload.

2. CNMP Implementation category:

a. Funding through a special AFO pool in the EQIP program is available for installing all practices within a CNMP that address the identified resource concerns for soil erosion, water quality, and air quality.

b. The application cut off for funding will be February 17, 2017 with a second sign-up cutoff of April 21, 2017.

c. NOTE: A current and up-to-date CNMP must have been completed before receiving funding.

What is CNMP?

A CNMP is a component of a conservation plan that includes structural practices, management activities, and land management practices for an AFO associated with crop or livestock production that collectively ensures the purposes of crop or livestock production and preservation of natural resources (especially soil erosion and water and air quality as related to nutrient related impacts) are compatible.

What is an AFO?

An Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) is a lot or facility where animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more (this does not have to be consecutive) in any 12-month period, and where crops, vegetation forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained over any portion of the lot or facility in the normal growing season.

Application Requirements

Producers who are interested in installing waste management or nutrient management conservation practices must adhere to the guidelines of the CNMP. You must:

1. **A CNMP must address soil erosion, water quality or air quality resource concerns.**
2. **Implement all practices that are listed in your CNMP by the end of the contract period, regardless of financial assistance.** This requirement is established in program statute, regulation and may not be waived.
3. **Meet the criteria found in the current NRCS CNMP policies when using partner products such as a Dairy Nutrient Management Plans (DNMP).** A DNMP contains much of the inventory and analysis needed to develop a CNMP and this can be used or specifically referenced to, in the CNMP case file as documentation used to develop the final CNMP. Ensure the DNMP information is accurate and up to date. A final CNMP product will still need to be produced and signed by the producer/operator, separate from a DNMP.
4. **Keep your CNMP current.** A current CNMP is one that has been developed or updated at least once every three years. The CNMP should always reflect the current operation of the AFO. The CNMP must be modified if facility expansions, modifications, production increases, or process modifications will 1) result in new or increased generation of animal wastes beyond the scope of the current nutrient management plan, 2) the AFO reduces or changes the field areas specified in the nutrient management plan for land application, 3) environmental monitoring shows that water quality may be at risk, or 4) the department orders changes in the nutrient management plan.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP is a voluntary, technical and financial assistance program designed to help farmers, ranchers, private forestland owners, tribes and other private landowners/managers improve irrigation efficiency; manage nutrient run-off and/or animal waste; improve the health of native plant communities; and reduce soil loss. In most instances, program participants pay for roughly half of the costs of the conservation measures or practices.

Each applicant must establish themselves as a USDA customer and complete all Farm Service Agency (FSA) eligibility requirements prior to the application cut-off date.

Applicants who apply as entities must provide a DUNS number, be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM), and maintain an active registration with current information prior to applying for funding and to remain eligible for payments under a funded contract. For more information regarding SAM and DUNS, or if interested in applying for EQIP funding, contact the local NRCS field office, located through the web site at: www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov.

For more information please contact your local NRCS field office, or Tracy Hanger, State Agronomist at tracy.hanger@wa.usda.gov or call (509) 323-2974, or Jeff Harlow, Assistant State Conservationist at jeff.harlow@wa.usda.gov or call (509) 323-2971.



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