

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
 CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
RECORD KEEPING
New York
 (acre)
 code 748

DEFINITION

The documentation of activities and data that affects the conservation of natural resources, and environmental aspects of an operation.

PURPOSE

To systematically and continuously record activities and data to provide information for natural resource management decisions.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On lands where natural resources are being managed.

CRITERIA

Identify the appropriate records required by the resource issues and concerns; i.e., soil, water and air quality; financial management; plant and animal production.

Select an appropriate record keeping system which allows for easy data analysis and retrieval.

General farm scale records to include, as appropriate:

1. Livestock and Other Areas: i.e., date, form, amount, and method of agrichemical applications in livestock and commodity processing areas; date, location, and severity of pest and disease incidents.
2. Test Results: i.e., water, animal manure, organic material tests, applicator calibration, and fuel consumption.
3. Field Information: i.e., field identification, acres, soil type, drainage class, and drainage maps.
4. Crop Management Information: i.e., crop varieties, planting and harvest dates, yield, and nutrient recommendations.

5. Field Tests: i.e., soil test, pre side-dress nitrogen test, foliar test, pest scouting, bio-solid analysis, and heavy metal accumulation.
6. Field Operations: i.e., date of operation, type of tillage, cultivation, irrigation, grazing dates and other field operations including time spent on field activities.
7. Nutrient (fertilizer, manure and bio-solids) Applications: i.e., date, grade, amount, and method of application.
8. Field Conditions: i.e., pest infestation, location within field, and severity.
9. Agrichemical Applications: i.e., date, form, target pest, rate, acres treated, and method of applications.

CONSIDERATIONS

The following items should be considered in planning a record keeping system:

1. Consider federal, state or local laws and regulations such as Farm Bill, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, or NY Petroleum Bulk Storage, 6NYCRR parts 612-614.
2. Consider a computerized total farm planning program for ease of data input, analysis, and retrieval.
3. The form, type and method of records being kept should parallel input data needed for nutrient budgets, water quality models, pesticide screening, erosion prediction, irrigation management, business management or other assessment tools.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for record keeping shall be consistent with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve the desired results.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Records should be maintained for a period of time consistent with the needs of the operation.

REFERENCES

Nutrient Management Software, 1996. NRAES-100. NRAES, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, NY. 1996.

Conservation Practice Standards. Section 4, USDA-NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Syracuse, NY. 1998.