

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Criteria Conservation Activity Plan Code (102) (No.)

1. Definition

A CNMP is a conservation plan that is unique to animal feeding operations. It is a grouping of conservation practices and management activities which, when implemented as part of a conservation system, will help to ensure that both production and natural resource protection goals are achieved. A CNMP incorporates practices to utilize animal manure and organic by-products as a beneficial resource. A CNMP addresses natural resource concerns dealing with soil erosion, manure, and organic by-products and their potential impacts on water quality, which may derive from an AFO. A CNMP is developed to assist an AFO owner/operator in meeting all applicable local, tribal, State, and Federal water quality goals or regulations. For nutrient impaired stream segments or water bodies, additional management activities or conservation practices may be required to meet local, tribal, State, or Federal water quality goals or regulations.

The conservation practices and management activities planned and implemented as part of a CNMP must meet NRCS technical standards. For those elements included by an owner and/or operator in a CNMP for which NRCS currently does not maintain technical standards (i.e., feed management, vector control, air quality), producers should meet criteria established by Land Grant Universities, industry, or other technically qualified entities. Within each state, the NRCS State Conservationist has the authority to approve non-NRCS criteria established for use in the planning and implementation of CNMP elements.

Technical Guidance, Criteria, and Content for the CNMP is found at the URL listed below.

National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) - <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.
Navigate to:

Title 180 – Conservation Planning and Application
Part 600 - National Planning Procedures Handbook
Subpart E - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Technical Guidance

2. CNMP Format and Content

CNMP planners and developers shall coordinate with the State NRCS office on the specific content and format for a CNMP and the specific use of nutrient planning and assessment tools.