

CNMPs Prevent Soil Erosion and Water Pollution

Soil erosion carries away valuable crop and forage nutrients, causes water pollution, and increases storm water runoff and flooding. Erosion control is an important benefit of CNMPs.

CNMPs and Record-Keeping

Record-keeping is an extremely important part of your plan. Records provide proof that the plan is being followed and are especially useful if a discharge occurs due to weather or other uncontrollable conditions.

A reviewable record also allows you to evaluate your system and make cost-effective improvements over time.

More Information

NRCS will help you design a CNMP specifically for your operation. Assistance may also be available from certified technical service providers (TSPs). You may qualify for financial assistance for CNMP development under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For more information on CNMPs, visit your local USDA field office or www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/nutrient.html; for information on EQIP, see www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/.

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Managing Manure and Litter on Animal Feeding Operations

with Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans



Helping People Help the Land



water quality regulations, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Rule. The CAFO Rule mandates water quality practices for animal feeding operations (AFOs) that discharge directly into U.S. waters. Compliance with the regulation is critical. To qualify for regulatory options such as water quality permits and the EPA Agricultural Stormwater Exemption, all CAFOs applying

CNMPs Save You Money

There are financial advantages to CNMPs. You can reduce fertilizer purchases by using the natural fertilizer produced on your farm or ranch. Application of nutrients according to soil test recommendations can prevent your fertilizer dollars from floating downstream. Designing your CNMP to make the most efficient use of labor is another advantage.

What is a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?

A CNMP is a guide to help producers make the best use of manure or poultry litter while also protecting water quality. Storing, handling, and using manure or litter can be complicated.

CNMPs are individually designed, considering the unique land, labor, and equipment resources of your operation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with you to create a CNMP that best meets your management objectives and environmental concerns, while meeting NRCS technical standards. CNMPs include descriptions of storage structures, handling methods, application rates, erosion control practices, guidance on when and where to apply manure and litter, and a record-keeping tool.

CNMPs Protect You

A CNMP protects you like insurance, ensuring compliance with government



manure to land must use a "nutrient management system," such as a CNMP, that meets CAFO Rule requirements.

For both CAFOs and non-regulated AFOs, a CNMP also ensures that you are taking approved and officially endorsed measures to protect water quality.

