

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

2012 EQIP Signup

Minnesota Supplement for: Conservation Activity Plan
Practice 102 - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
Practice 104 – Nutrient Management Plan – written
Practice 106 – Forest Management Plan
Practice 114 – Integrated Pest Management Plan
Practice 118 – Irrigation Water Management Plan – written
Practice 122 – Agricultural Energy Management Plan, Headquarters – written
Practice 124 – Agricultural Energy Management Plan, Landscape – written
Practice 130 – Drainage Water Management Plan – Written
Practice 134 – Conservation Plan supporting Transition from Irrigation to Dry-land Farming Plan (only for AWEP project areas)
Practice 138 – Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition - Written

Supplemental Criteria

Conservation Activity Plan:

A specialized conservation plan prepared for a conservation management unit by a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) as authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA). Financial assistance is used for eligible land of the producer to identify and record conservation treatment needs for the specialized plan. Payments to producers for EQIP conservation activity plans may not exceed 75 percent of the estimated cost incurred, except for Historically Underserved producer who can receive up to 90percent.

1. Each conservation activity plan will be supported by a single, stand-alone program contract with plan development scheduled during the first 12 months after obligation.
2. The contract expiration date in ProTracts will default to the second year of the contract (two year contract) and the expectation is that these agreements will be completed within the first year. Modification of program contracts for conservation activity plans to reschedule and allow completion of the conservation plan beyond the first year is strongly discouraged.
3. Ranking of EQIP applications associated with conservation activity plans is not required.
4. Applications submitted by producers for development of conservation activity plans must be managed within a separate fund sub-account and must have the Planning “Application Type” selected in ProTracts.
5. Only one conservation activity plan contract is allowed at one time to be developed on eligible land. Eligible producers may submit applications for development of multiple conservation activity plans on differing land units.
6. **Technical criteria and deliverables for each activity plan is found in the eFOTG, Section III.**
7. **Only certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs) may be used to provide services for development of conservation activity plans.**

8. **Under no circumstance should NRCS allow duplication of payments for the same planning services in program contracts** (i.e., contracts with both 100 series practice payments (FA) and 910 (TA) practice payments for the same planning services on the same land

Additional Supplemental Criteria for Practice 102 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan(CNMP)

1. This payment is for: The facility and nutrient management assessments needed to develop a CNMP; the coordination of the CNMP development with all other CNMP certified specialists (MWHS; Nutrient Management; and Land treatment); and the assembly, development and approval of the final CNMP product. See attachment A for a generalized discussion on evaluations and recommendations required in a CNMP. See attachment B for additional detail on facility assessment requirements. Example CNMPs can be found at:
<http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/nutrient/planning/planning.htm>

Also see the plan component check list at the above site.

2. The development, coordination and assembly of the entire CNMP must be performed by a Technical Service Provider certified in the CAP CNMP category or the CNMP Plan Approval category or any of the additional certifications listed in items 3 and 4 below.
3. Facility Assessments must be completed by a TSP certified in the CNMP Plan Development Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage category.
4. Nutrient Management evaluations and planning must be completed by a TSP certified in the CNMP Plan Development Nutrient Management Category.
5. The Land Treatment evaluation and planning portion of the CNMP is completed by qualified NRCS staff.
6. The complete CNMP will be approved by a TSP certified in the CAP CNMP category. If none are available, the complete CNMP will be approved by a Minnesota NRCS regional nutrient specialist.

ATTACHMENT A - EQIP COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (CNMP) REQUIREMENTS

- Participants receiving USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for Manure and Wastewater Storage and Treatment practices, are required to develop and implement a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). The plan is completed prior to the design of individual waste storage or treatment practices.
- A CNMP addresses handling, storage and land application of manure and wastewater; mortality disposal; silage storage; soil and water conservation practices; and as requested by the producer feed management and uses of manure for other than land application.

This fact sheet highlights CNMP requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

1. *Livestock production and manure storage area evaluation and practices planned*

✓ **Evaluation includes:**

- Current storage system capacity for present or planned animal numbers.
- Feedlot and other storage area runoff or leaching problems including milkhouse waste.
- Current operation and maintenance activities for all livestock production system components.
- Silage storage areas.
- Mortality disposal techniques.
- Odors.
- Safety issues and emergency response planning.
- MnFarm evaluations if none have been completed.

✓ **Plan components include:**

- Collection, storage, transfer and/or treatment systems and equipment needed to eliminate identified problems including silage leachate problems.
- Operation and maintenance practices/activities for system components.
- Emergency response or action plan addressing fire, personal injury and manure storage, collection, treatment and application.

2. *Upland land treatment evaluation and practices planned*

✓ **Evaluation includes:**

- Evaluation of erosion potentials on fields receiving land applications.
- Sensitive Area determinations.

✓ **Plan components include:**

- Management practices such as filter strips.
- Other soil and water conservation practices needed to reduce soil losses or runoff. (**All fields receiving manure from the facility will have sheet and rill soil losses controlled to 6 tons per acre per year or less.**)

3. *Nutrient Management evaluation and practices planned.*

✓ **Evaluation includes:**

- Field Nitrogen leaching and Phosphorus runoff potentials
- Calculations to determine acreage needed to adequately utilize manure nutrients.
- Crop nutrient needs for each crop in the rotation.

✓ **Plan components include:**

- Nutrient management practices needed in sensitive areas.
- Nutrient rate, timing and form recommendations for each crop in the rotation.
- Operation and maintenance instructions for things such as equipment calibration or soil testing frequency.

4. *Record of CNMP implementation (similar to MPCA record keeping requirements).*

ATTACHMENT B

| MANURE AND WASTEWATER STORAGE AND HANDLING EVALUATION CHECKLIST | Checked ✓ | Concern Identified ✓ |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Facility Description | NA | NA |
| 2. Surface Water Pollution Assessment | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is all contamination runoff stored or adequately treated? (NRCS Standard) (MinnFarm assessment if needed). | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are all roofs and drainage areas to open lots diverted away or included in storage volume computations? (NRCS Standard 313) | | |
| 3. Odor Assessment | | |
| 4. Storage Facilities: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the manure storage volume adequate to meet Manure Management Plan requirements? (NRCS Standard 313) | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there apparent structural concerns? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there loss of manure due to excessive seepage? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do water tests from well indicate any potential seepage issues? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does perimeter tile discharge indicate seepage (discoloration, odor)? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there proper setback from wells? (MN Rules Chapter 4725.4450) | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are safety signs, fences, grates, etc., present where needed? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are temporary stockpiles properly sited? (MPCA Guidelines) | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is livestock watering equipment in good repair and not leaking? | | |
| 5. Ground Water Pollution Potential | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are special geologic conditions accounted for? (NRCS Standard 313, MPCA Karst Guidelines) | | |
| 6. For dairy operations, is the milk parlor wash water properly handled? (NRCS Standard) | | |
| 7. Is silage leachate properly handled? (NRCS Standard) | | |
| 8. Are animal mortalities handled properly? | | |
| 9. Does the O&M Plan address operational and safety aspects of the planned structures (NRCS Standard 313)? | | |
| 10. Does the facility have an Emergency Response Plan? | | |