The CNMP. If you need NRCS assistance to improve how you handle, store, treat, and land apply manure or agricultural wastewater sources of nutrients, you need a type of NRCS Conservation Plan known as a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

Open this brochure to learn what is in NRCS’s CNMP and how it compares to the SCC’s Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan or DEP’s Chapter 91 Manure Management Plan.

If you need assistance with managing only the land application of nutrients, see the brochure Managing Land Application of Nutrients in Pennsylvania with NRCS Assistance at http://goo.gl/M8v2qE.

Types of Plans, Common Criteria and Separate Authorities:

NRCS will help you develop 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 EQIP, see http://goo.gl/tr5aFm. For more information about TSPs see brochure Choosing a TSP for Farmers at http://goo.gl/M8v2qE.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Helping People Help the Land
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Thanks to the following partners for providing information.

For more about Pennsylvania’s Nutrient Management Program, see Penn State Extension’s website at: http://goo.gl/at6QCv
A Manure Management Plan (MMP)?

No, this is a DEP Plan under Chapter 91 (Clean Streams Law)

- Required for operations that generate or utilize manure or agricultural process wastewater
- An Act 38 NMP or NRCS CNMP is acceptable
- For operations where an Act 38 NMP is needed, see SCC NMP section of brochure
- Can be written by anyone
- Does not need to be reviewed/approved
- Flexible to changes
- Though helpful and recommended, does not require soil or manure tests/analysis
- Includes setbacks from sensitive resources (i.e., – streams, wells, sinkholes, drainage systems, etc.)
- Addresses Animal Concentration Areas (ACAs), which are livestock areas that will not maintain a growing crop, or where nutrients are applied in excess of crop need.
- Includes quantity, timing, and location of manure applied to meet crop yield goals, manure transfer/export info
- Requires record keeping

FYI Animal Numbers for CAFOs

An operation is considered a CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) if:

- Operation exceeds any of the following thresholds for animal numbers/quantities:
  700 mature dairy cows; 1,000 veal calves; 1,000 cattle; 2,500 swine (55 lbs. or more); 10,000 swine (less than 55 lbs.); 500 horses; 10,000 sheep or lamb; 55,000 turkeys; 30,000 layers or broilers (wet); 125,000 broilers (dry); 82,000 layers (dry); 30,000 ducks (dry); 5,000 ducks (wet)
- “Wet” and “dry” describe type of manure handling system whether liquid (wet) or other (dry)
- Operation has a total of more than 1,000 Animal Equivalent Units (AEUs) for all animal types combined

A Nutrient Management Plan?

No, this is a SCC NMP under Act 38

- Required for Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs):
  - Operations with densities that exceed 2 AEU/Acre
  - More manure than land available for application
  - Other Animal Operations may voluntarily participate to receive same legal protection (VAO)
- Required for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO):
  - NMP required as part of DEP NPDES permit
  - See FYI for more info about defining CAFOs
  - Written by a certified Act 38 Planner
  - Must be reviewed by a certified Act 38 Reviewer
  - Subject to Conservation District Board or SCC approval
  - Changes/revisions to an approved plan subject to review and approval of amendments

Act 38 Content and Format Requirements:

- Written for 1 – 3 years
- Subject to status reviews to determine implementation of the plan
- Includes setbacks from sensitive resources (i.e., – streams, wells, sinkholes, drainage systems, etc.)
- Addresses Animal Concentration Areas (ACAs)
- Provides details about existing inadequate and planned manure and stormwater management practices:
  - Includes schedule of Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation
  - Includes exporter/importer agreements, balance sheets if no broker
  - Requires soil and manure tests/analysis, P Index
  - Requires manure spreader capacity and calibration
  - Specifies crop yields, nutrient balances for N, P₂O₅, K₂O
  - Requires annual practice Implementation recordkeeping

A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?

YES! This is the plan NRCS requires for getting its help

All operators requesting NRCS assistance to help voluntarily improve the handling, storing, treating, or application of manure or agricultural wastewater to the land must have a CNMP.

MP is a NRCS Conservation Plan that combines:

A nutrient management element equivalent in content and format of Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans, including Appendix 1 for CNMNs

A soil erosion and sediment control element that prevents excessive sediment reaching surface water

Adequate engineering planning information to demonstrate readiness for project implementation

Planned Feed Management and Waste Recycling as needed

Written and approved by a NRCS Certified Conservation Planner or qualified Technical Service Provider if funded by EQIP Conservation Activity Plan contract

- Does not need approval by a Conservation District Board
- Must be reviewed by a local NRCS employee and found to be in environmental compliance
- Is much more than just a NRCS 590 nutrient management plan which only addresses lands where plant nutrients and soil amendments are applied
- Has more details than a Chapter 91 Manure Management Plan (MMP)

The nutrient management element of a CNMP contains implementation requirements for the NRCS Conservation Practice called Nutrient Management code 590, as well as other associated practices needed to manage concerns from applying sources of nutrients to the land to grow crops. For more information about managing the land application of nutrients, see the publication Managing Land Application of Nutrients in Pennsylvania with NRCS Assistance http://goo.gl/M8v2qE

This element, which integrates information about soil erosion and sediment control, may be used to satisfy:

Agriculture Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (Ag E&S Plan) under section DEP Chapter 102.4 regulations.