



Archived Publication

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EPA promulgated regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in February 12, 2003 that expanded the number of operations covered by the CAFO regulations and included requirements to address the land application of manure from CAFOs. The rule became effective on April 14, 2003. NPDES-authorized states were required to modify their programs by February 2005 and develop state technical standards for nutrient management. On February 28, 2005, in response to litigation brought by various organizations, the Second Circuit court issued its decision in *Waterkeeper Alliance et al. v. EPA*, 399 F.3d 486 (2d Cir. 2005). EPA has updated the CAFO rule to reflect the changes requested by the Court. Visit www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule to view the 2008 CAFO Final Rule and supporting documents.



APPENDIX N - RECOMMENDED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) AND CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS

There are several Best Management Practices (BMPs) and conservation practices to consider when planning and implementing a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). This appendix contains some of USDA's published practices, though many other practices exist. The practices you see here represent those that EPA believes may be the most helpful when planning your NMP. Consult your state or local Cooperative Extension Office for more information and other standards and practices.

Description

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a division of USDA that provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and the environment. NRCS relies on many partners to help set conservation goals, work with people on the land, and provide assistance. Its partners include conservation districts, state and federal agencies, NRCS Earth Team volunteers, agricultural and environmental groups, and professional societies.

NRCS has published the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP), which includes conservation practice standards guidance for applying technology on the land, and sets the minimum level for acceptable application of the technology. The most commonly considered conservation practice standards that may be used are shown in the table below:

Practice	Practice
Composting Facility (a)	Pond Sealing or Lining - Flexible Membranes (a)
Conservation Crop Rotation (a)	Pond Sealing or Lining - Bentonite Sealant (a)
Contour Buffer Strips (a)	Residue Management, no-till and Strip Till
Cover and Green Manure Crop	Residue Management, Mulch Till
Cross Wind Trap Strips	Roof Runoff Management
Diversions	Spring Development
Fences	Strip cropping, Contour
Filter Strips (a)	Terraces
Grade Stabilization Structure	Trough or Tank
Grassed Waterways	Use Exclusion
Irrigation Water Management	Waste Management Systems (a)
Nutrient Management (a)	Waste Storage Facility (a)
Pest Management	Waste Treatment Lagoon (a)
Pipelines	Waste Utilization (a)

National standards for each practice are available at the NRCS web site at http://www.nrcg.nrcs.usda.gov/nhcp_2.html. State conservationists determine the national standards to apply on a state-wide level, and add detail to effectively implement the standards on a local level, including more restrictive levels, if warranted. Local standards cannot be less restrictive than the national standards.

References

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture. [Notice of Technical Guidance for Developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans \(CNMPs\)](#).

Who to Contact for More Information

Your Local Cooperative Cooperative Extension Office
Your Local Land Grant University
National Water Management Center/Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)