

Delaware Nutrient Management
Program

DELAWARE CONSERVATION
PRACTICE STANDARD

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
PLAN or ANIMAL WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Reported by each)

DEFINITION

A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP) is a tool for determining the proper location, design, operation and maintenance of animal feeding production, manure application areas, and commercial nutrient applications. They spell out Best Management Practices (BMPs) that the farmer can use to prevent a discharge of nutrients from the farm's production or application area.

PURPOSE

To minimize agricultural pollution of surface and ground water by ensuring the farm's NMP or AWMP give the farmer correct guidance about methods to limit discharges of nutrients into Waters of the State.

**CONDITIONS WHERE
PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice applies to all Delaware operations with 8 or more animal units and/or 10 or more acres. Operations meeting these requirements need a Nutrient Management Plan or Animal Waste Management Plan.

CONSIDERATIONS

Nutrient Management Plans and Animal Waste Management Plans written for any operation must have certain topics addressed in that plan.

CRITERIA

The following provides guidance to the elements required in any Nutrient Management Plan and/or Animal Waste Management Plan:

1. Adequate Storage Capacity- The plan must include specific practices to ensure adequate storage capacity to protect water quality.
2. Proper Management of Dead Animals- The plan must describe how you handle and dispose of dead animals.
3. Implementing Conservation Practices to Control Nutrient Loss- The plan must describe how you develop and implement Best Management Practices to control the runoff of pollutants from your production and land application areas to waters of the United States.
4. Testing Manure, Litter, Processed Wastewater- The plan must describe the specific methods you use to test the nutrient content of manure, litter, and processed wastewater. If you apply manure from your CAFO to the land, your plan must also describe the methods you use to test the soil.
5. Keeping Records- You must keep records that document your nutrient management practices.

The following **additional** element is only required in a Nutrient Management Plan:

1. Methods for the Land Application of Manure, Litter, and Processed Wastewater- You plan must describe the site-specific procedures and practices you will use to ensure appropriate agricultural use of the nutrients in these materials. These procedures should

address the rates, timing, and method of land application. Recommended rate should be based on proper soil sampling and analysis.

PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications shall be in keeping with this standard, the Delaware Nutrient Management Law and the Delaware CAFO Regulations. They shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose, and to prevent water quality impairment.

All NMP's or AWMP's must address the sections listed above (in the criteria section) even by indicating they are not applicable due to the absence of cropland on the farm.

REFERENCES

Delaware CAFO Regulations pp. 1-30
November 2011

Delaware Department of Agriculture
Nutrient Management Program
Title 3 Delaware Code, Chapter 22