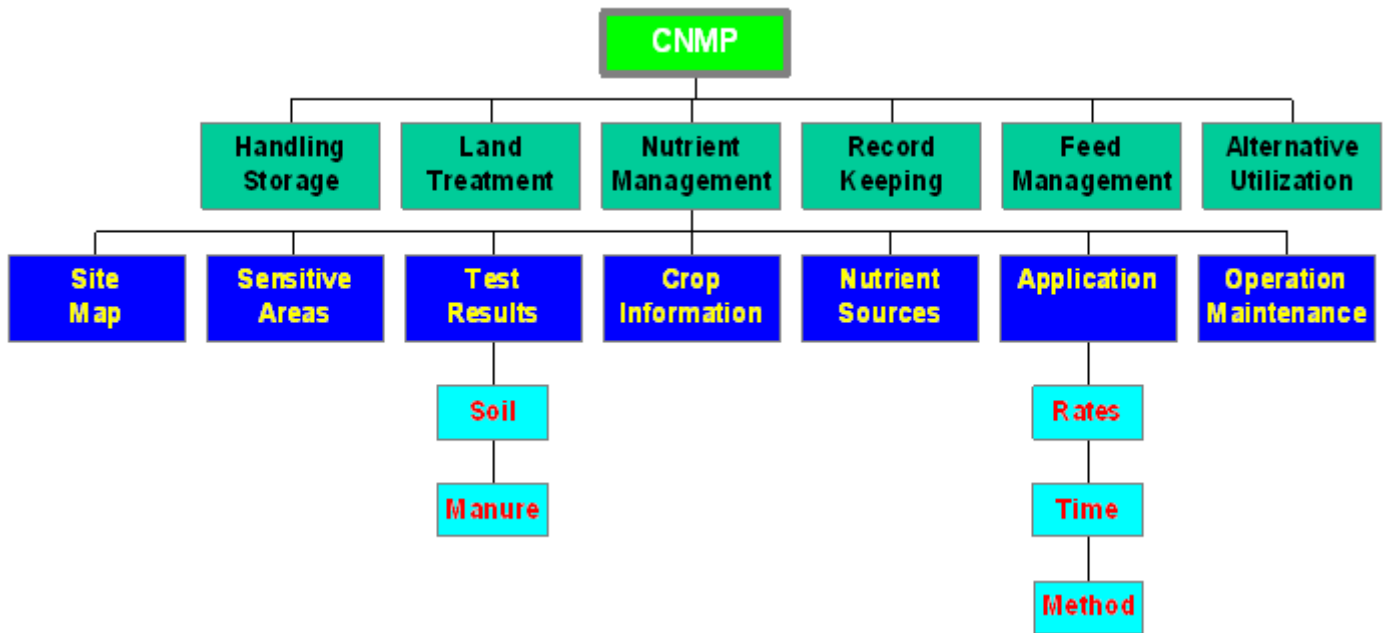


What is a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?

A CNMP is a "Conservation Whole Farm Plan" specific to Animal Feeding Operations (AFO). The CNMP addresses the management and treatment necessary for the AFO to meet their production goals and protect soil and water resources on the farm and leaving the farm. The CNMP process is part of a national strategy by USDA and USEPA to better address the resource concerns with animal feeding operations, preserve the livestock industry, create a more uniform planning system nation-wide. The conservation practices and management activities planned and implemented as part of a CNMP must also meet the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards. A CNMP is developed to assist AFO owners/operators in meeting all applicable local, tribal, State, and Federal water quality guidelines or regulations.

In general terms, a CNMP identifies actions or priorities that will be followed to meet clearly defined nutrient management goals at an animal operation. Defining nutrient management goals and identifying measures and schedules for attaining the goals are critical to reducing threats to water quality and public health from AFO's. The CNMP would fit within the total resources management objectives of the entire farm.

A CNMP is needed in most states to acquire EQIP funding. The CNMP can be used by the producer to make solid business decisions that consider production efficiency, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Having an implemented and technically sound CNMP can be the first line of defense against a lawsuit.



What is included in a CNMP?

The CNMP normally contains 6 different elements as shown above and highlighted below:

1. **Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage:** how manure and runoff are managed at the facility;
2. **Land Treatment Practices:** the treatment and practices that will be applied on the land receiving manure;
3. **Nutrient Management Plan:** the time, rates, forms, and methods of application of manure and other fertilizers or nutrients;
4. **Record Keeping:** how and what records the producer maintains;
5. **Feed Management Considerations:** feed ration and management considerations to reduce manure nutrient contents;
6. **Other Waste Utilization Options:** alternative use of manure when there is not sufficient land available for manure application.

Once the CNMP is developed, it is critical that implementation, documentation, and verification take place for the landowner.