



Nutrient Management Fact Sheet: Washington

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Nutrient Management Plans

Topic	Summary
Coverage	<p>All licensed Grade A milk producers are required to have an approved Nutrient Management Plan and a certified NMP on site within two years of licensing.</p> <p>A factsheet on the Dairy Nutrient Management Program can be found here.</p> <p>State CAFO permit for groundwater protection requires a Manure Pollution Protection Plan. CAFO defined as 200 or more mature dairy cows.</p> <p>Combined State permit (groundwater and surface water/NPDES) for CAFOs requires a Manure Pollution Protection Plan.</p> <p>A comprehensive fact sheet on the different permits can be found here.</p>
Content	<p>Dairy Nutrient Management Plans are site specific and developed for the operation. The elements of the plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facility and Storage Maintenance. - Emergency Protocols. - Land and Vegetation Management. - Nutrient Management. - Mortality Management. - Feed Management. - Nutrient Testing and Field Sampling. - Calibration of Manure Equipment. - Recordkeeping. - Manure Transfer. <p>Minimum elements of a dairy NMP can be found here and additional information can be found here.</p> <p>All permitted CAFOs are required to have a Manure Pollution Prevention Plan (MPPP). The MPPP requirements are outlined in Section S4 of the State groundwater permit and the Combined NPDES and groundwater permit. A Dairy Nutrient Management Plan does not replace a MPPP.</p>
Frequency of Updates	Plans must be updated as needed.
Paperwork	NMPs must be submitted to the dairy operation's local conservation district for approval. Certified plans must be signed by the local conservation district representative and the dairy operator.



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	A fact sheet on recordkeeping requirements can be found here .
Planner Qualifications	Conservation Districts are directed to work with producers to develop NMPs.

Manure Storage and Application

Topic	Summary
Storage	<p><u>Structure</u></p> <p>The Dairy Management Plan includes Facilities and Storage Management elements that are site specific.</p> <p>Under the permit, the design and installation of lagoons and other liquid storage structures built or expanded must be overseen by a licensed professional engineer. The Washington NRCS Engineering Technical Note 23 – Assessment Procedure for Existing Waste Storage Ponds. Additional requirements are included in the permit in section S4.B.</p>
Application	<p><u>Spreading</u></p> <p>Land application requirements are specific to each farm and contained in the Nutrient Management Plan. Additional information can be found here.</p> <p>Under the combined permit, CAFOS may not apply manure, litter, process water or other organic by-products closer than 100 feet to any down-gradient surface waters, open tile line intake structures, sinkholes, agricultural or drinking water well heads, or other conduits to surface or groundwaters.</p> <p><u>Testing</u></p> <p>Soil analysis every three years.</p> <p>Additional testing is required under state permits and combined permits, including annual testing for all land application fields.</p>

Technical Assistance

Topic	Summary
Software Tools	<p>WA Dairy Producers can use the Manure Management Planner (MMP), a Windows-based computer program developed at Purdue University (further information about this software can be found here).</p> <p>Washington State University (WSU), through their Livestock Nutrient Management program, offers producers Software and Spreadsheets to help them focus on whole farm nutrient management.</p>
Guides / Handbooks	Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) provides:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A list of dairy-related publications to provide nutrient management training for farmers. <p>WSU Livestock Nutrient Management Program- offers producers informational resources including research, publications, presentations, software and a dairy newsletter.</p> <p>Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP)- This page was created by Conservation Districts to assist landowners/producers with Nutrient Management Planning in Washington State.</p> <p>WA NRCS provides many online resources for producers seeking nutrient management plan assistance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A document on the state's 590 nutrient management standard. - Washington Supplements to the Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMF) (link found here). <p>Washington State Department of Ecology is working with an advisory group to research and write the Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This guide is a technical resource for agricultural producers that describes Ecology's recommended best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality with material released as it is developed.
Classes / Trainings	For technical training on developing CNMP plans, WA NRCS allows access to a list of classes to be taken on AgLearn , USDA's department-wide system for managing training records and activity at USDA.
Tailored Expert Assistance	Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) and Washington Conservation Districts (WACD) offer Nutrient Management Programs in 12 conservation districts.

Financial Assistance

Summary

WA NRCS provides financial assistance to farmers through:

- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)- offers financial cost-share assistance to farmers for the adoption of conservation practices and development of nutrient management plans.
- [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), which gives producers financial assistance to implement new conservation management practices and enhancements.