



# COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

## For California Animal Feeding Operations

### *What will a CNMP do for me?*

A CNMP by the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. The CNMP is a wise business tool, helping producers look at their options and identify the best mix of practices and actions before making manure management investments. A CNMP also provides the basis for a successful nutrient management strategy.



### *NRCS CNMP Policy*

NRCS CNMP policy requires that a CNMP be developed for all AFO producers who receive technical or financial assistance from NRCS for conservation practices that address manure storage, transfer, treatment, land application or nutrient management.

### *Financial assistance for developing a CNMP*

NRCS program applicants who don't already have a CNMP are encouraged to apply for financial assistance to develop one. Contact your local NRCS office for more information.

### *Who can develop a CNMP?*

When financial assistance is provided to develop a CNMP, Producers must select Technical Service Providers (TSP) from <http://techreg.usda.gov> who are certified, by county, in Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) CNMP (102) or CNMP Plan Approval.

Technical assistance to prepare the CNMP without financial assistance may also be available directly from NRCS. However, the timing and scheduling of the assistance may not always meet the producers' need.

### *Will a CNMP help me meet regulatory requirements?*

USDA's goal is for AFO/CAFO owners and operators to take voluntary actions to minimize potential water and air pollutants from storage facilities, confinement areas, and land application areas. The objective of a CNMP is to provide AFO owners and operators with a plan to manage manure and organic byproducts by combining conservation practices and management activities into a conservation system that, when implemented, will control soil erosion and protect water and air quality. In doing so, producers will proactively address potential regulatory issues.

### *Conservation Planning, a Priority*

NRCS CNMP policy emphasizes the importance of doing planning before installing practices. The CNMP planning process consists of the following nine steps:

1. Determine Objectives
2. Inventory Resources: Collecting Dairy Information
3. Analyze Resource Data: Evaluation of Current Facilities and Practices
4. Identify Problems and Opportunities
5. Formulate Alternatives
6. Evaluate Alternatives
7. Make Decisions: Producer decides on implementation plan
8. Implement the Plan
9. Evaluate the Plan

The CNMP planner must be familiar with the dairy operation, keep the producer engaged in the planning process, and have confidence in the accuracy of documentation used during the CNMP planning process.



*For details, contact your local NRCS Office*