

Whether you have a small hobby farm or a large-scale agricultural operation, it's important to properly manage nutrients from manure & other fertilizers. If your farm generates *or* utilizes manure, a written Manure or Nutrient Management Plan is required. By managing manure in accordance with these plans, you can increase farm profitability & minimize water pollution.

What are manure management plans?

- Manure management plans (MMPs) are regulated under Title 25 Chapter 91 of the PA Code & a Manure Management Plan Workbook has been developed by the Department of Environmental Protection to meet the applicable regulations. These workbooks can be **completed by the farmer**, though your local conservation district is available to aid in their development. MMPs do not need to be formally approved but must be updated as needed to ensure it accurately reflects management of the operation. These plans address the rate & timing of mechanical manure application with consideration to crop-types & environmentally sensitive areas like streams, ponds, & water wells. To simplify the planning process, MMPs are more **generalized** & may end up being more restrictive than nutrient management plans.

- Nutrient management plans (NMPs) are similar to MMPs, but are more in-depth & therefore provide **more specific** recommendations when it comes to supplemental nitrogen, phosphorus, & potassium fertilizers. NMPs utilize specific soil & manure tests from your land & livestock to provide manure/nutrient application guidance for individual fields. Due to the level of planning required, NMPs must be written by a **certified specialist** & reviewed/approved by the conservation district. NMPs have a three (3) year lifespan.

What are nutrient management plans?

Which plan do I need?

- Operations that are considered a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (**CAFO**) or a Concentrated Animal Operation (**CAO**) are required to have a nutrient management plan. A manure management plan will not suffice for CAFOs or CAOs.
- For farms that are not considered CAFOs or CAOs, a manure management plan or nutrient management plan is acceptable. While an NMP is not required for these operations, they may choose to have a NMP instead of an MMP due to the specific insight they provide. Farms that are not required but still choose to participate in the nutrient management program are considered Voluntary Animal Operations (**VAOs**). To determine what type of plan you need, see the attached flowchart by PennState Extension.

- By having & following your NMP or MMP, **you will be in compliance** with applicable laws & regulations.
- Funding opportunities often require farms to have an NMP or MMP, so having a plan in place may help you be **more competitive** in the ranking process.
- NMPs analyze specific scenarios with consideration to soil types & nutrient levels for individual fields, nutrient requirements for specific crops, & nutrient content of on-farm manure. When this information is properly planned, the result is **specific nitrogen, phosphorus, & potassium fertilizer recommendations** that may help lower fertilizer costs & **save you money**.

How will these plans benefit me?