



Technical Service Provider (TSP) Certification for Feed Management - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Development (CNMP)

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Disclaimer

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Introduction

This fact sheet has been developed to support the implementation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Feed Management 592 Practice Standard. The Feed Management 592 Practice Standard was adopted by NRCS in 2003 as another tool to assist with addressing resource concerns on livestock and poultry operations. Feed management can assist with reducing the import of nutrients to the farm and reduce the excretion of nutrients in manure.

In 1999, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) worked together to develop a Unified National Strategy that would aid producers to protect the environment by providing assistance in managing soil, water and air resources on animal feeding operations. The Unified National Strategy proposed that every animal feeding operation should have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) developed by a certified individual by 2008. At this time, CNMPs are still being promoted. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) requires a CNMP be developed by an NRCS employee or by a USDA certified specialists to receive cost-share assistance for plan preparation. The USEPA requires a similar document for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting called a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) that is not required to be prepared by a certified specialist.

Certification

NRCS refers to certified specialists as Technical Service Providers (TSPs). Through the 2002 Farm Bill, producers who utilize a TSP for CNMP Development can cost-share from NRCS for the TSP's services. There are six elements of a CNMP; one of them is Feed Management. The feed management plan for a facility must itself be prepared by an animal nutritionist certified as a TSP. However, the feed management element of the CNMP (that describes how feed management will be incorporated with other conservation practices at the facility), requires a TSP certified in Feed Management – CNMP Development.

There are two options for becoming a TSP in the area of CNMP Plan Development – Feed Management. Option 1 is referred to as “Knowledge and Training” and Option 2 is to certify through a certifying organization (see below). A certifying organization has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NRCS to certify individuals as TSPs. TSPs certified through that organization can then submit themselves to TechReg as TSPs.

The difference between the options is that a TSP using Option 1 is responsible for tracking his or her own certification

materials and providing evidence to NRCS that he or she meets the requirements, while a TSP using Option 2 can work through the process with assistance from the certifying organization. At this time, Iowa State University is the only certifying organization with an MOU in this area.

While The University of Tennessee is listed, they are no longer providing a certification program. To certify with an MOU organization, contact the organization directly for additional information.

TechReg (<http://techreg.usda.gov/>) is a USDA/NRCS sponsored web page that provides information for both the animal feeding operation owner/operator and the industry consultant concerning TSPs. Once a consultant has completed the requirements for certification, they can complete a profile on TechReg that is viewable by animal feeding operation owner/operators looking for assistance. On TechReg, there is a link to a document titled “Certification Criteria”. It provides the list of requirements necessary for becoming a TSP in any of the proposed service provider categories.

Categories	Options	Criteria
CNMP Plan Development - Feed Management		Start Date: 8/6/2003 ; End Date: Feed Management (592);
	CNMP Plan Development Feed Management Option 1 Knowledge and Training	<p>Animal Feed Ability : Ability to discuss feed management technologies and feeding techniques with producers during the planning process, and to enable producers to make a decision of the potential value of including feed management in their conservation plan or CNMP.</p> <p>Animal Feed Knowledge : Knowledge of various feeding technologies and feeding techniques described in the NRCS conservation practice standard for feed management (code 592), including how their use can change the nutrient content of excreted animal manure.</p> <p>Animal Feed Sources : Knowledge of the sources of feed management technical assistance that are available in the area(s) in which the planner is providing assistance.</p> <p>Animal Feed Training 2 : Successful completion of an NRCS approved training course that meets all the general requirements for all CNMP Certified Specialist categories and includes the specific requirements for feed management as contained in the NRCS GM-180, Part 409.10, including 6 hours of continuing professional development training in the feed management area over the three year certification period.</p> <p>CNMP - National Planning Procedures Handbook : Knowledge and understanding of National Planning Procedures Handbook - Part 600.5, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Technical Guidance.</p>
	CNMP Plan Development Feed Management Option 2 - Certification	<p>CNMP - National Planning Procedures Handbook : Knowledge and understanding of National Planning Procedures Handbook - Part 600.5, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Technical Guidance.</p> <p>CNMP Plan Devel Feed Management Certification : CNMP Plan Development - Feed Management Certification through the University of Tennessee or Iowa State University CNMP Feed Management element certification process.</p>

Table included from Certification Criteria document located at <http://techreg.usda.gov/>

The six elements of a CNMP are:

1. Manure and wastewater storage and handling
2. Nutrient management
3. Land treatment practices
4. Feed management
5. Record keeping
6. Other Utilization Activities

Requirements for TSP certification in CNMP Development – Feed Management

- Successfully complete the NRCS approved training that meets the specific requirements for feed management as contained in the NRCS GM-180, Part 409.10
- Acquire 6 hours of update training in the feed management area over a three year certification period
- Have knowledge and understanding of the USDA/NRCS National Planning Procedures Handbook, Part 600.5, CNMP Technical Guidance
- Have knowledge of various feeding technologies and feeding techniques described in the NRCS conservation practice standard for feed management (code 592), including how use of these alternatives can change the nutrient content of excreted animal manure
- Have knowledge of the sources of feed management technical assistance that are available in the area(s) in which the planner is providing assistance.

In 2006, land grant universities from Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan and Tennessee and representatives from NRCS completed a project to develop a core CNMP educational curriculum and supporting course materials. Module 10 of that curriculum (TSP Certification and Registration) contains information about certifying in all CNMP Development areas as well as information about registering on TechReg as a TSP. The certification areas in CNMP Development are Manure and Wastewater Storage and Handling, Nutrient Management, Land Treatment Practices, Feed Management, and Total Plan Development.

The curriculum is available through the Midwest Plan Service as well as on the CNMP Core Curriculum web page (<http://www.abe.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/cnmp-curriculum.html>).

Additional information concerning TSP certification is available on the Iowa State University TSP Certification web page (<http://www.abe.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/tsp-certification.html>), and can usually be found on your state's USDA/NRCS website.

Project Information

Detailed information about training and certification in Feed Management can be obtained from Joe Harrison, Project Leader, jhharrison@wsu.edu, or Becca White, Project Manager, rawhite@wsu.edu.

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