

Preparing to Write a Nutrient/Manure Management Plan

The following are some important actions that you can take to work through the development of your required nutrient or manure management plan

- A. Determine if you need a Manure Management Plan or a Nutrient Management Plan
 1. Are you a CAO or CAFO, if so you need to find a certified planner to help you write a Nutrient Management Plan
 - a. Refer to CAO and CAFO worksheets for help in determining if you are a CAO or CAFO
 2. If you are **not** a CAO or CAFO, you can begin now to write your own Manure Management Plan or find someone to guide you in developing your own plan
- B. Get a copy of the Land Application of Manure, Manure Management Plan Guidance document to help work you through the development of your manure management plan
- C. Take soil tests of all your crop fields
- D. Develop a farm map (you can get help from FSA, PAOneStop.org, conservation district, Ag extension)
 - Include fields, roads, buildings, manure storages, existing and proposed BMPs, streams, lakes, ponds, sinkholes, wells, manure application setback areas, manure stacking areas, barnyards, exercise lots and feedlots.
- E. Determine average crop yields for the various crops you grow on your farm
- F. Identify nearby water wells, streams (lakes and ponds), and sinkholes that require manure setbacks
- G. Calibrate your manure spreader
 - See *PSU Agronomy Facts 68, Manure Spreader Calibration* for help
- H. Determine if winter manure application is necessary, if so look for fields (considering slope, cover and setbacks) where this practice will be acceptable and of lowest risk for manure runoff
- I. Check your manure storage for problems
 - Leaks, cracks, bank erosion, trees and woody shrubs, holes, tears, overtopping, etc
- J. Check ACAs (barnyards, feedlots, exercise lots) for runoff to nearby streams or other water bodies
- K. Look for good manure stacking areas if this practice will be necessary
- L. Check your pasture for meeting the dense vegetation standard (average of 3" of growth across the pasture throughout the growing season).
- M. Get help with your planning if you need it
 - Conservation district, PSU extension, Ag consultants, nutrient planners, manure brokers, etc
 - Look for locally or regionally held manure management planning workshops where trained individuals will help you work through developing your own plan