

## **Part 405 – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans**

### **Subpart C – Policy**

#### **405.20 NRCS National Headquarters**

A The Deputy Chief for Science and Technology (S&T), under the direction of the Chief of NRCS, provides leadership for continued implementation of technologies and processes that support comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs). S&T organizational units have the following roles and responsibilities:

- (1) Director of the Ecological Sciences Division (ESD), under the direction of the Deputy Chief for S&T—
  - (i) Provides leadership for development of technical standards and other technologies to support CNMP development and implementation.
  - (ii) Provides leadership for incorporation of CNMP policy into NRCS conservation planning policy and procedures.
  - (iii) Provides assistance with the training needs related to CNMP planning and implementation.
- (2) Director of the Conservation Engineering Division (CED), under the direction of the Deputy Chief for S&T—
  - (i) Provides leadership for development of technical standards and other technologies to support CNMP development and implementation.
  - (ii) Provides leadership for incorporation of CNMP policy into NRCS conservation planning policy and procedures.
  - (iii) Provides assistance with the training needs related to CNMP planning and implementation.
- (3) Directors of the national technology support centers (NTSCs), under the direction of the Deputy Chief for S&T—
  - (i) Provide technical assistance to State Conservationists for implementation of CNMP policy, development, and application.
  - (ii) Utilize the technology development and acquisition teams (Manure Management Team, Water Quality and Quantity Team, Air Quality and Atmospheric Change Team, and the Energy Team) to acquire new technologies to address nutrient management concerns and facilitate their transfer to States.
  - (iii) Facilitate necessary updates of national conservation practice standards to ensure the latest technology is available to States, USDA field service centers, conservation partners, designated agents, and TSPs that develop CNMPs.

B. Deputy Chief for Programs, under the direction of the Chief, provides leadership for incorporation of CNMP policy into NRCS financial assistance program delivery.

The coordinator of the TSP team, under the direction of the Deputy Chief for Programs—

- (i) Coordinates the TSP certification criteria with CED and ESD.
- (ii) Keeps the TechReg certification criteria related to CNMPs current for TSPs.
- (iii) Provides leadership to encourage the use of TSPs.

C. Deputy Chief for Strategic Planning and Accountability, under the direction of the Chief, provides leadership for incorporation of CNMPs into the NRCS reporting system and provides oversight and evaluation functions associated with CNMP implementation.

#### **405.21 NRCS Regions**

Regional Conservationists work with State Conservationists to ensure consistent implementation of and compliance with CNMP policy on a regional basis.

#### **405.22 NRCS State Offices**

State Conservationists—

- (1) Ensure that NRCS State policies are consistent with national CNMP policy.
- (2) Determine procedures to ensure that CNMPs are implemented according to the Field Office Technical Guide standards.
- (3) Utilize available tools and technologies to implement CNMP policy.
- (4) Provide recommendations for improvement of CNMP technology development or implementation to ESD and CED.
- (5) Ensure adequate staff and TSPs are trained as certified CNMP planners to achieve timely and quality CNMP planning and implementation.
- (6) Provide State leadership for the coordination and implementation of CNMP policy, criteria, and technical guidance.
- (7) Provide State leadership for the formulation and maintenance of State certification required by law or regulation standards for TSPs associated with CNMPs.
- (8) Provide State leadership for the development and maintenance of the State's CNMP development support structure, including cooperation with State-based regulatory authorities and other appropriate agencies, entities, or individuals, to clarify regulatory and technical requirements for animal feeding operations, coordinate CNMP strategies, and ensure that the most up-to-date nutrient management planning data are available and being utilized.

#### **405.23 NRCS Area Offices or Equivalent**

Area conservationists and equivalents—

- (1) Assist field offices with implementing the CNMP policy and technical criteria.
- (2) Report, recommend, and implement changes needing to be addressed with CNMP planning.
- (3) Adhere to State and local regulations and guidelines.

#### **405.24 NRCS Field Offices**

District conservationists and equivalents—

- (1) Implement the CNMP policy and technical criteria.
- (2) Report issues needed to be addressed with CNMP planning and implementation.
- (3) Adhere to State and local regulations and guidelines.