



CIRCULAR 440-19-2

Conservation Program Manual, Title 440 – Programs

Part 515 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (Subpart I)

SUBJECT: Progressive Implementation of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)

Purpose. To communicate changes in the 2018 Farm Bill that allows Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) participants to progressively implement a required CNMP.

Effective Date. December 20, 2018

Background. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 provides for development and progressive implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan in the case of a confined livestock feeding operation.

Policy or Procedure. This circular amends policy found in Title 440, Conservation Planning Manual Part 515, Subpart I, Section 515.80C(4)(ii), which currently states that *"implementation of all practices cited in a CNMP is required by the end of the contract period, regardless of financial assistance provided,"* by removing and substituting with the following:

"As of the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, new contract participants may progressively implement practices cited in the CNMP, provided that the following are met:

- The practice or practices included in the schedule of operation help address or improve a resource concern and are operable and function as intended when implemented, and*
- The producer must follow an existing nutrient management plan, or a nutrient management practice is included in the contract that adequately addresses the application of animal waste."*

At a minimum, the producer must select the practices in the system that will treat the resource concerns to a level that meets or exceeds the planning criteria in the FOTG. This means the primary practice and all facilitating practices must meet or exceed the planning criteria.

Example: If a producer decides to address water quality issues associated with an inadequate animal waste storage system with a dry-stack system, the participant will need to address all clean water coming into the system and all polluted water leaving the system. This may require additional supporting practices, such as a roof and cover, roof runoff management, etc. Other than a nutrient management plan, producers are not required to address resource concerns associated with other parts of their headquarters or field operations.

Filing Instructions. This circular is to be printed in hardcopy and retained in the local files until the applicable manuals are updated to include this policy.