Complying with State Regulations

NRCS can help you comply with local, state and federal rules by providing technical and financial assistance. For example, nutrient management and erosion control practices are part of the Wisconsin Ag Performance Standards (NR 151). NRCS can provide conservation planning and practices to reduce erosion and runoff, and develop nutrient management plans needed for good farm management to meet state regulations.

Federal, state and local permits

A number of conservation practices require county, state or federal permits. Obtaining the proper permit(s) is the landowner's responsibility, and may sometimes be a lengthy process. Permits are commonly required for manure storage structures, erosion control structures, and some other practices. Start early to plan your potential projects. NRCS can help you find out which permits are needed for particular practices, and direct you to the permitting agency. NRCS may be able to provide the technical information needed for the permit application if staff time and resources allow, for example engineering and design. This type of technical assistance is also available from the county, from state agencies, some non-profit groups, and private consultants as well.

State Permits:

Livestock operations over 1000 animal units are considered CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) and require a state permit under Wisconsin regulation (NR 243). Check DNR regulations website for forms and contact the local DNR office for more information. dnr.wi.gov/topic/AgBusiness/CAFO/

Local/County Permits

Any livestock operation, regardless of size, needs to comply with county ordinances. Counties have manure storage ordinances, floodplain zoning ordinances, and livestock siting rules (ATCP 51). More information and factsheets for livestock producers at http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Livestock_Siting/

For more information www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov

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USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance Available from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for Pork Producers

What can NRCS do for you?

The US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with farmers and landowners to help them protect and improve the soil, water and natural resources we all depend on for our food and well-being. NRCS offers voluntary programs and assistance; it is not a regulatory agency.

Technical Assistance

NRCS can provide:

- Conservation planning for cropland and other lands. Erosion control is essential on fields where manure is applied to reduce runoff, protect water quality and build healthy, fertile soil.
- Nutrient management plans customized for your hog operation.
- Site planning and soil investigations for manure handling and treatment technologies.
- Design and construction plans for manure management practices, including storage structures, composting for mortalities, and cropland erosion control practices.
- Conservation planning for compliance on highly erodible land and wetlands to help farmers remain eligible for USDA programs.

Financial Assistance

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the primary program for financial assistance (cost-sharing) for farm conservation practices. Applications can be completed at any time at the NRCS office in your local USDA Service Center. Every year, a ranking date is set and applications are ranked for funding that has been allocated for the year. Payment rates are based on a percent of estimated costs to install practice.

Some popular livestock practices in EQIP:

- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan – a plan for manure and wastewater handling and storage, land treatment to control erosion, feed management, nutrient management, record keeping, and possible alternative solutions. A CNMP helps producers meet local, state, and federal regulations.
- Nutrient Management – reduce fertilizer costs with more efficient fertilizer application, as part of a CNMP or separately
- Heavy Use Area Protection – to reduce erosion in heavily traveled areas or animal lots
- Anaerobic Digester
- Animal Mortality Facility
- Composting Facility
- Waste Separation Facility – as part of a waste management system or CNMP
- Waste Facility Closure – to close sub-standard structures
- Sediment Basin – to collect and manage animal lot runoff
- Waste Transfer – as part of a waste management system or CNMP
- Roofs and Covers – for better water or air quality, or to capture biogas
- Waste Storage Facility – for temporary storage of solid or liquid wastes
- Waste Treatment – digester or other treatment facility for manure
- Cropland conservation practices, such as waterways, cover crops, buffers etc.