

Summary of Qualified Individual (QI) Requirements for CEMA

Activity	Type	Code	QI Requirements
Adaptive Management for Soil Health	CEMA	204	<p>A QI for Adaptive Management for Soil Health CEMA 204 is one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) through the American Society of Agronomy. • A Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) or Associate Professional Soil Scientist (APSS) through the Soil Science Society of America. • An Extension Specialist from a Land Grant University or is affiliated with an institution of higher learning with a focus on agriculture, range, or soil science. • Holds a bachelor’s degree or higher in an agricultural, range, forestry, or soil science field with at least 2 years of experience using the scientific process to answer questions. This includes experimental design, data collection, and analysis.
Agricultural Energy Assessment	CEMA	228	<p>A QI for this CEMA is an energy auditor defined as someone who has at least one of these qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Engineer’s license • Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) —Certified Energy Manager (CEM) • Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) —Certified Energy Auditor (CEA) • State-certified/licensed farm energy auditor (if applicable) • Included on the state’s approved list of vendors for CEMA 228.
Aquifer Flow Test	CEMA	224	<p>A QI for this CEMA is defined as someone who has at least one of these qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed or Certified Professional Geologist (PF, LPG, CPG), licensed Professional Engineer (PE), Certified Water Well Driller (CWD), or licensed Monitoring Well Installer (MWI). • Certified Pump Installer (CPI). • Technical Service Provider (TSP) certified for Conservation Practice (CPs) Water Well (Code 642) or Pumping Plant (Code 533). • Local, state, or territory approved or permitted water business. • Included on the state’s approved list of vendors for CEMA 224.
Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment	CEMA	218	<p>A QI for this CEMA has one of the qualifications listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The QI will have completed at least one previous COMET-Farm assessment for the type of operation to be evaluated (e.g., if the CEMA application will be for an agroforestry operation, the QI will have completed at least one previous COMET-Farm agroforestry assessment), or • The QI will have completed the “COMET Farm & COMET Planner Introduction Presentation” (https://www.youtube.com/@comet-tools/videos) and the “COMET & Carbon Farm Planning” series, Parts 1-5 (https://www.youtube.com/@comet-tools/playlists) videos on the COMET YouTube channel.

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Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring – System Installation	CEMA	202	<p>A QI for this CEMA meets <u>all</u> of the qualifications listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can demonstrate the successful installation of at least two Edge-of-Field water quality monitoring projects that use(d) flow measurement, precipitation measurement, and automated water quality sampling devices including planning, design, installation/layout, inspection, operation, and maintenance of the monitoring system(s). • Has documented prior system installation and is prepared to provide a copy of previous installation report, including photographs, with personally identifiable information redacted. • Non-qualified individuals are allowed to install a water quality monitoring system under the guidance and oversight of a QI. <p>The NRCS National Water Quality and Quantity Team (NWQQT) will maintain a list of QIs for this activity. Prospective QIs may contact the NWQQT to be added to or removed from the list. NRCS staff may also contact the NWQQT to inquire about or provide information regarding QIs for their respective regions. Please contact karma.anderson@usda.gov.</p>
Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation	CEMA	201	<p>A QI for this CEMA meets <u>all</u> of the qualifications listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has successfully managed of at least two relevant Edge-of-Field water quality monitoring projects that acquire(d) flow, precipitation, and water quality sample data collection – including operation and maintenance of the monitoring system(s). • Demonstrate proper sample collection and preservation and oversight of the laboratory analysis. • Completed statistical analysis of the data collected. • Has documented prior system installation and is prepared to provide a copy of previous installation report, including photographs, with personally identifiable information redacted. <p>Non-qualified individuals are allowed to collect data under the guidance and oversight of a QI.</p>
Evaluation of Existing Waste Storage Facility Components	CEMA	227	<p>This CEMA will be completed by a Qualified Individual. A QI for this CEMA has credentials that meet at least one of these qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Engineer’s license in the same state as the project. • Professional Engineer’s license or registration and three years of relevant manure storage facility installation, inspection or evaluation experience. • When allowed by the state, completed bachelor’s degree or higher in Engineering, or Engineering Technology with at least three years of relevant manure storage facility installation, inspection or evaluation experience and is apprenticed to a Professional Engineer.
Feed and Forage Analysis	CEMA	206	<p>A QI for this CEMA meets the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural science, animal science, animal nutrition, biology, veterinary science, or zoology.
Feral Swine Damage Assessment	CEMA	297	<p>A QI for this CEMA has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife biology, zoology, wildlife management, wildlife conservation, or environmental science. • Documentation of the degree from an accredited educational institution may be required.
Forest Management Assessment	CEMA	223	<p>A QI for this CEMA has one of the qualifications listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The QI will be a Certified Forester, Certified Consulting Forester, or state-licensed forestry professional, or • A non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor’s degree in forestry or natural resources or • A minimum of two years' experience in forest inventorying.

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Indigenous Stewardship Methods Evaluation	CEMA	222	<p>A tribal or Indigenous governing body must designate a QI for the Indigenous Stewardship Methods Evaluation (CEMA 222).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter, certificate, or other written method is necessary for participants and NRCS to verify a QI has the trust and approval of a Tribe's or Indigenous culture's designation to provide the service described in this CEMA.
On-Farm Monitoring for Evaluating Air Quality Resource Concerns	CEMA	205	<p>A QI for this CEMA has one of the qualifications listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicable certification (e.g., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Method 9 opacity certification for monitoring dust or smoke emissions from a stack, Pennsylvania Odor Management Specialist certification, etc.) for the type of air quality monitoring to be conducted. • Completed air quality monitoring similar to the type of monitoring to be conducted under this CEMA a minimum of 5 times prior to the proposed monitoring. • Professional Engineer's license with a Bachelor of Science degree in air quality or environmental engineering with three years of relevant air quality experience. <p>Non-qualified individuals are permitted to conduct monitoring under this CEMA with the guidance and oversight of a QI, although the QI is ultimately responsible for all certifications and requirements under this CEMA.</p>
PFAS Testing in Water or Soil	CEMA	209	<p>The QI must meet the EPA definition of an environmental professional (an environmental professional is someone who possesses sufficient specific education, training, and experience necessary to exercise professional judgment to develop opinions and conclusions regarding conditions indicative of releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances on, at, in, or to a property) and meet at least one of these qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Engineer's or Professional Geologist's license or registration and three years of full-time relevant experience. • Licensed or certified by a State, Tribe, or the Federal government to perform All Appropriate Inquiries and have three years of full-time relevant experience. • Bachelor's degree or higher in science or engineering and five years of relevant, full-time work experience. • Ten years of relevant, full-time work experience.
Prescribed Grazing Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity	CEMA	219	<p>The Qualified Individual must be a natural resource professional defined as someone who has at least one of the qualifications listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Qualified Individual will be a Certified Forage and Grassland Professional, Certified Range Management Consultant, or Certified Professional in Range Management. • A non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor's or higher-level degree in agronomy, range science or other closely related plant science discipline. • A minimum of two years' experience in grazing land and conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of grazing land improvement practices generated through Pasture Condition Scoring (PCS), Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (IIRH), Determining Indicators of Pasture Health (DIPH), or similar protocols as described in Monitoring Manual for Grassland, Shrubland and Savanna Ecosystems, or in the National Range and Pasture Handbook.
Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Contaminants	CEMA	207	<p>The Qualified Individual must be an environmental professional defined as someone who has one of these qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Engineer's or Professional Geologist's license or registration and three years of full-time relevant experience. • Licensed or certified by a state, tribe, or the Federal government to perform All Appropriate Inquiries and have three years of full-time relevant experience. • Bachelor's degree or higher in science or engineering and five years of relevant, full-time work experience. • Ten years of relevant, full-time work experience.

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Site Suitability and Feasibility for Waste Storage Facility	CEMA	226	<p>A QI for this CEMA has credentials that meet at least one of these qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Engineer’s license or registration and three years of relevant soils experience. • Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) through the Soil Science Society of America and three years of relevant soils experience. • Associate Professional Soil Scientist (APSS) or Certified Professional Soil Classifier (CPSC) through the Soil Science Society of America and three years of relevant soils experience. • Bachelor’s Degree in Soils with eight years of relevant soils experience.
Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management	CEMA	217	<p>Individuals qualified to develop CEMA 217 include at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals with at least 2 years of training and experience in collecting soil, water, or other nutrient material samples. • Individuals who hold current applicable credentials, such as the American Society of Agronomy Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg). • Individuals recognized through the NRCS Registry as a Technical Service Provider for at least one of the following: DIA 157, CPS 590, CPA 102, or DIA 101. • Agricultural retailers and crop consultants with 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program. • Persons performing sample collection under the guidance of a qualified individual, consultant, or retailer.
Soil Health Testing	CEMA	216	<p>A QI for Soil Health Testing CEMA 216 meets one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) through the American Society of Agronomy or a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) or Associate Professional Soil Scientist (APSS) through the Soil Science Society of America. • Technical Service Providers (TSP) certified for Soil Health Management Plan Conservation Practice Activity (116) or Soil Health Management Design and Implementation Activity (162). • Associate degree or higher in agricultural or soil science with at least 2 years of experience collecting soil for laboratory analysis. • Individuals working under the guidance or management of a QI are allowed to collect soil samples for this CEMA.
Soil Carbon Stock Monitoring	CEMA	221	<p>A QI for this CEMA must meet one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) through the American Society of Agronomy or a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) through the Soil Science Society of America. • Technical Service Providers (TSP) certified for Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Nutrient Management (Code 590) or Soil Health Management Design and Implementation Activity (162). • Associates degree or higher in agricultural or soil science with at least 2 years of experience collecting soil for laboratory analysis. <p>Individuals under the supervision of a QI are allowed to collect soil samples for this CEMA</p>