Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial assistance for implementing the practices in your CNMP. EQIP is a cost-share program and applications are accepted on a continuous basis, with established deadline dates for evaluation, ranking and approval, depending upon funding availability.

All funded practices must be constructed according to NRCS standards and specifications as described in an NRCS approved design prior to construction.

Implementation of your CNMP with EQIP helps protect natural resources.

PRACTICES ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENTS THROUGH EQIP:
- Waste Storage Facility
- Heavy Use Protection
- Roof and Covers
- Roof Runoff Structure
- Composting Facility
- Fence
- Livestock Pipeline
- Access Road
- Watering Facility
- Spring Development
- Nutrient Management
- Trails and Walkways

The difference, now having the new structure, is like night and day. What used to take me 4-5 hours to do during the winter now takes about 20 minutes. There is plenty of room for the cattle and I can spread the stored manure where and when it gets best utilized.

- Mike P.
- Southwestern, PA.

Contact your local NRCS office now for assistance.

www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.
**IMPROVE YOUR LIVESTOCK & MANURE MANAGEMENT WITH NRCS ASSISTANCE**

Contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center (found at http://offices.usda.gov) to discuss your operation’s needs and available options and begin developing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

**WHAT IS A CNMP?**

A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is tailored to each individual animal feeding operation and identifies conservation practice options to address soil erosion and water quality concerns. The plan includes manure handling, storage and application information that minimizes nutrient losses and maximizes its fertilizer value to meet your crop production goals. There are options on how this plan is developed. See “How can I get a CNMP?” section.

**WHY DO I NEED A CNMP?**

- A CNMP enables NRCS to provide you with technical and financial assistance for manure and wastewater management and utilization as outlined in the plan.
- A CNMP becomes a valuable tool for day-to-day and future planning decisions.
- A CNMP shows what primary nutrients are supplied by manure to meet crop yield goals.
- A CNMP can save you money by avoiding over application of expensive fertilizers when the natural fertilizer produced on your farm supplies the majority, or all, of your crop nutrient needs.

**WHAT’S IN A CNMP?**

**ENGINEERING INVENTORY & EVALUATION (I&E) REPORT**

The I&E is an assessment of current livestock and manure management practices at the farmstead. Any soil erosion and water quality concerns are documented and addressed with recommended conservation practices and management changes suitable for your operation. Estimated implementation costs are included in the report.

**CONSERVATION PLAN**

The conservation plan covers the entire agricultural operation. It includes crop fields and pasture in addition to the farmstead. It lists the practices and management changes needed and discussed to address erosion and water quality concerns along with an implementation schedule.

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The nutrient management plan details volumes and types of manure generated and matches planned manure application with crop nutrient requirements based on soil tests, manure analyses and expected yields. A list of practices needed for proper manure and nutrient management, which may include a waste storage structure, is included.

**HOW CAN I GET A CNMP?**

Discuss your need for a CNMP with NRCS. Depending on your situation, you may apply for funding from NRCS to hire a qualified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to develop the entire CNMP or you could work with both NRCS and TSP planners to acquire the individual components.

Your unique circumstances will determine your best option(s). Other financial assistance programs may be available through your local Conservation District or other program targeted to your geographical area. Contact your local NRCS office or Conservation District to learn more.