

# Assisting California's Dairies and other Animal Feeding Operations

## Concerned with:

Maintaining crop yields while reducing fertilizer costs? Maximizing production under ever-increasing environmental pressures? Insufficient manure storage? Nutrients discharging into surface or groundwater? Nutrients from liquid or solid manure accumulating in certain fields? Making manure marketable for export?

**The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service can help!**

## Overview

In the agricultural setting, nutrients are the building blocks for plant growth and production. Common nutrients are the elements nitrogen and phosphorus which are available in several forms. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with farmers and ranchers to profitably manage nutrients.

Well managed manure storage and handling, in concert with the application of nutrients using the "4 Rs of nutrient management" (right source, right form, right method, and right time) increases utilization efficiency and soil health while reducing the risk of pollution of surface water and groundwater.

NRCS can help identify alternatives to improve manure storage and handling and the ability to apply nutrients to crops implementing the 4 Rs of nutrient management. This is accomplished through the development of an NRCS Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Once your plan is in place, you may be eligible for financial assistance to make the improvements you've decided upon.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to owners and operators of dairies and other AFOs through the 2018 Farm Bill.

## GETTING STARTED...

### Go to the Office

We have 54 across the state. NRCS will work with you to develop a conservation plan tailored to help you improve nutrient management on your operation. This voluntary plan will be based on your priorities and solid science.



**Self-service features help producers manage their conservation activities online and request assistance from NRCS.**

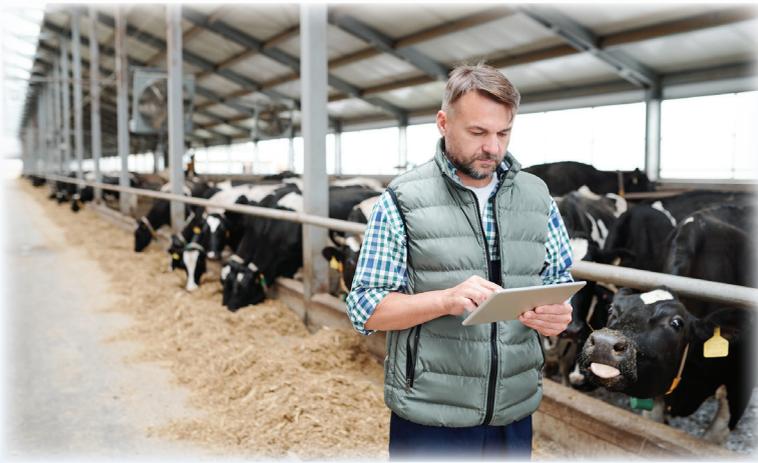
### Financial Assistance

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that has been widely used by AFO owners and operators in California. EQIP shares with landowners the cost of conservation practices (see sidebar on back) to improve nutrient utilization and mitigate associated conservation concerns.

### Apply

Any time during the year. Eligible projects will be evaluated, prioritized and selected for funding as budget allocations permit.





NRCS program applicants who don't already have a CNMP are encouraged to apply for financial assistance to develop one.

### Who can develop a CNMP?

When financial assistance is provided to develop a CNMP, producers must select Technical Service Providers (TSP) from <http://techreg.usda.gov> who are certified, by county, in Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) CNMP (102).

Technical assistance to prepare the CNMP without financial assistance may also be available directly from NRCS. However, the timing and scheduling of the assistance may not always meet the producers' need.



### About NRCS, FSA and RMA

In more than 80 years of assisting farmers, ranchers, and private forestland owners, NRCS has assembled a body of technical standards (such as those in the sidebar at right) to address natural resource concerns. The USDA's Farm Services Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) provide other critical resources such as farm loans, crop insurance and disaster assistance.

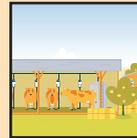
For more information  
on NRCS Farm Bill conservation programs visit  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/)

# Typical AFO Conservation Practices



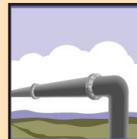
### WASTE STORAGE FACILITY

An impoundment to temporarily store manure, wastewater, and contaminated runoff. Examples include waste storage lagoons, concrete storage tanks for manure, and well-drained concrete stacking areas for manure or silage.



### ROOF RUNOFF STRUCTURE

A structure that will collect, control, and convey precipitation roof runoff away from manured areas to protect water quality. Typical components include roof gutters, downspouts, and underground outlets.



### WASTE TRANSFER

A system using structures, conduits or equipment to convey manure from agricultural operations to points of usage. Components may include manure pumps, pipelines, sand traps, concrete conveyance lanes, and process pits to improve solid separation.



### WASTE SEPARATION FACILITY

A filtration or screening device, settling tank, settling basin, or settling channel used to partition solids and nutrients from a waste stream protects water and air quality and makes the end product more manageable for use on cropland and other purposes.



### TAIL WATER RETURN SYSTEM

A facility to collect, store, and transport irrigation tailwater for reuse in a farm irrigation system can help to keep manured runoff or phosphorus from entering surface waters.



### NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

A program to help farmers determine how and when to apply nutrients based on proper soil and manure testing and tracking.



### IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT

The process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water.