

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENT COORDINATION

PURPOSE

To assure that an applicant for a waste management system, SCD staff, and nutrient management consultants are collaborating on data collection development and implementation of nutrient management plans.

PROCEDURES

Since Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) and Animal Waste Management System Plans (WMSPs) are required to be eligible for MACS funding for Waste Storage Structures (Code 313), Dead Bird Composting Facilities (Code 318), Waste Treatment Lagoons (Code 359), Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561) (feed lot areas only), and Waste Water Treatment Strips (Code 635) it is important that the applicant, district personnel and the nutrient management consultant coordinate their efforts to assure consistency in information. The desired storage period, the amount of waste generated, anticipated crop rotations, field acreage, and recommended timing of nutrient applications are essential components of both the WMSP and the NMP and, therefore, cannot be developed independently. The following procedures should be followed to assist in coordination of MACS program policies on nutrient management:

1. A joint meeting should be held between the applicant, the district staff person and the nutrient management consultant. Such a meeting will facilitate exploration of various alternatives which could meet the farmer's needs and make the most efficient use of cost-share funds. Such a joint dialogue will also minimize the possibility of any misunderstanding on the farmer's part about the recommendations of the NMP or about the cost-share program relative to the project.
2. A NMP (meeting the cross compliance guidelines of the Nutrient Management Program), or a Nutrient Management Certification form (only for use with Imminent Startup or Expansion operations) acknowledging commitment to obtain a NMP, **must** accompany the MACS application for any animal waste facility (see Section III, Page 1-- Attachments to Accompany the MACS Application Form and in Section II the details on the criteria for each animal waste BMP). A current NMP is **required** on any animal waste treatment or containment project before the CFP is processed. The plan will be reviewed for adequacy by the NM Program.
3. Only plans prepared by a certified Nutrient Management Specialist with the Cooperative Extension Service or a private nutrient management consultant certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture are to be submitted in conjunction with a MACS project. **Plans must be updated and maintained in accordance with guidelines in the plan.**
4. Although district personnel do not need to address details of manure nutrient content and application rates, they are to discuss with the applicant the requirement for a NMP and its basic content at the time of application *and* prior to the nutrient management consultant's visit.

5. Follow-up for MACS applicants with excess animal waste: If an applicant does not have adequate acreage to apply the stored waste, the name and address of the recipient of the waste is required to be identified in the NMP along with information about the amount and approximate timing of waste being transported to the recipient. The development of a NMP for the farmer receiving the waste is encouraged but is not required. The nutrient management consultant will follow-up with landowners identified as receiving waste from a cost-shared waste storage system. Refer to Nutrient Management Regulations (COMAR 15.20.08).
6. MACS applicants must have examined and signed (along with the District Conservationist) their WMSP and must meet the Nutrient Management cross-compliance guidelines prior to signing the MACS Agreement. MACS Agreements are sent to the SCD office rather than to the applicant for signature in order to fulfill this requirement.
7. Before a Claim for Payment is processed the applicant must submit a copy of the **CURRENT** NMP for the entire operation. This plan must indicate the use of the Animal Waste Facility and the presence of animals on the farm. After the MACS office receives the plan, it will be reviewed by the Nutrient Management Program.

Please note: The applicant is only required to submit a signed Reporting Form with their NMP when it is the initial plan.