

INTRODUCTION

Agricultural operations that have 8 or more animal units are required to develop and implement a nutrient management plan. Animal unit is defined under 40 CFR, Part 122, Appendix B. Part B of this section, “Animal Unit Equivalencies,” provides the equivalencies by animal type.

Manure management shall be addressed when an agricultural operation produces or utilizes animal manure as part of the operation. Under COMAR 15.20.07.05 (3) (c) an agricultural operator must manage manure to protect water quality. COMAR 15.20.08.05I requires the consultant to take into account current manure management practices and evaluate these as necessary to advise the operator when manure management changes are recommended to minimize the potential for nutrient loss or runoff or to improve nutrient use efficiency and proper timing of utilization.

Chapter C of this section, “Manure Management,” delineates the factors a consultant shall consider when evaluation of manure management is necessary. Part D, “Manure Management Evaluation Form,” is provided for use by either the agricultural operator or consultant as a quick evaluation tool to help pinpoint areas of concern. Agricultural operators shall implement measures to address any conditions found to be impacting water quality. Additional technical assistance to manage manure in order to minimize the potential for nutrient loss or runoff can be obtained from the local soil conservation district.

Part E of this section, “Agricultural Waste Characteristics,” shall be used as a reference for consultants developing plans for agricultural operations that produce or utilize animal manures or organic residues and wastes. It provides physical characteristic information necessary for understanding, planning and designing manure or waste management systems.