



Nutrient Management Fact Sheet: Georgia

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Nutrient Management Plans

Topic	Summary
Coverage	<p>Animal Feeding Operations are required to have permits for land application of manure and water quality protection based on the following operation sizes: ¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land application system permits for operations of 301-1000 animal units. - Land application system permits for operations greater than 1000 animal units. - NPDES permits for AFOs with more than 300 animal units but less than 3,000 animal units. <p>Each of these permits requires a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).</p>
Content	<p>The elements of the NMP must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure adequate storage of manure and process wastewater. - Include procedures for proper operation and maintenance of storage facilities. - Ensure proper management of mortalities. - Ensure that clean water is diverted from the production area. - Prevent direct contact of confined animals with waters of the state. - Identify conservation practices, including buffers, to control runoff. - Identify protocols for testing manure, processed wastewater and soil. - Establish protocols for land application of manure or processed wastewater. - Identify appropriate recordkeeping. <p>An NMP checklist can be found here.</p>
Frequency of Updates	NMPs should be reviewed annually and must be updated when there are substantial changes to the operation.
Paperwork	NMPs must be submitted to the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Annual reports may also be required by the permit.
Planner Qualifications	NMPs for liquid manure handling systems must be developed and signed by a certified specialist (approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture or an NRCS Certified Conservation Planner). NPDES permits may have different requirements. ²

Manure Storage and Application

Topic	Summary
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Overview	Permitted Animal Feeding Operators must complete a minimum of 2 days of instruction on state regulations and water quality laws, CNMPs, best management practices, monitoring and recordkeeping, pollution prevention and odor and atmospheric emissions. ³
Storage	<p><u>Facility Siting/Setback</u> NPDES permits require 100 feet between wetted areas or waste disposal areas and waters of the state. A 35-foot vegetated buffer may be a substitute for the setback.</p> <p><u>Structure</u> All waste storage lagoon(s) must be constructed to ensure that seepage is limited to a maximum of 1/8 inch per day (3.67 x 10⁻⁶ cm/sec). Individual waste storage lagoons shall not exceed 100 acre-feet in volume. There are additional requirements in <u>groundwater recharge areas</u>.</p>
Application	<p><u>Spreading</u> At a minimum, land application rates should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent application of nutrients at rates that will exceed the capacity of the soil and the planned crops to assimilate nutrients and minimize water pollution; and - Be quantified and based on the most appropriate nutrient in the soil, type of crop, realistic crop yields, soil type, and all nutrient inputs in addition to those from manure and wastewater. <p>Manure and wastewater should not be applied to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flooded land. - Frozen or snow-covered land. <p><u>Testing</u> Land application permits have specific soil monitoring requirements. See pages 11 and 12 of each of the permits.</p>

Technical Assistance

Topic	Summary
Software Tools	<p><u>Manure Management Planner (MMP)</u> is a software tool created by Purdue University that includes state-specific information for Georgia producers to create manure management plans for crop and animal feeding operations.</p> <p>The University of Georgia (UGA) Animal Waste Awareness in Research and Extension (AWARE) division provides various <u>NMP Tools</u> for producers.</p>
Guides / Handbooks	UGA published the following documents to aid producers in nutrient management:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- AWARE provides an NMP Checklist and CNMP Checklist to ensure producers are creating accurate and correct management plans.- An extension paper titled: Small Farm Nutrient Management Primer: For Un-permitted Animal Feeding Operations.
Classes / Trainings	UGA offers Animal Waste Operator/Planner Certification Training classes for all permitted livestock operations.

Financial Assistance

Summary

GA NRCS provides assistance through:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program ([EQIP](#)) - offers financial cost-share assistance to farmers for the adoption of conservation practices and development of nutrient management plans.
- Conservation Stewardship Program ([CSP](#)), which gives producers financial assistance to implement new conservation management practices and enhancements.

¹ <http://rules.sos.ga.gov/GAC/391-3-6-.21?urlRedirected=yes&data=admin&lookingfor=391-3-6-.21>

² <http://rules.sos.state.ga.us/gac/40-16-6>

³ <http://rules.sos.state.ga.us/gac/40-16-5>