



# Nutrient Management Fact Sheet: Wisconsin

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*Disclaimer:* This document does not constitute legal advice and is intended for educational purposes only. Readers and users are solely responsible for determining, and complying with, all federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

## Nutrient Management Plans

Topic	Summary
Coverage <sup>1</sup>	<p>It is recommended that all farms have a <a href="#">nutrient management plan</a>, but those required to have a plan when applying nutrients to any pasture or field if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participate in the Farmland Preservation Program.</li> <li>- Are offered cost-sharing to develop a plan.</li> <li>- Accept cost-sharing for manure storage systems.</li> <li>- Are large livestock operations that require a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit.</li> <li>- Are regulated under a local ordinance for manure storage or livestock siting.</li> </ul> <p>Farmers claiming Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) tax credits must meet <a href="#">soil and water conservation standards</a> including having an NMP. Counties inspect such farms every four years and issue certificates of compliance.</p> <p><a href="#">WPDES permit</a> is required for <a href="#">CAFOs</a>. Animal unit calculations are based on this <a href="#">table</a>.</p> <p><i>Other Plans or Permits</i></p> <p>Wisconsin towns and counties can enact regulations and require permits for new or expanding operations with 500 or more animal units (and in some cases smaller operations). A map of local requirements can be found <a href="#">here</a>. A check list of county and state permits can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Under the WPDES permit, an <a href="#">emergency response plan</a> is required to be completed within 30 days of issuance of the permit. A list of FAQs on CAFOs and WPDES permits can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
Content	<p>Wisconsin Nutrient Management Plans align with Wisconsin NRCS Conservation Practice 590 (December 2015 version) for cropland. The NRCS 590 <a href="#">Nutrient Management Plan</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is often created using the free <a href="#">SnapPlus</a> nutrient management planning software.</li> <li>- Describes ALL N-P-K nutrient applications for the crop rotation. Nutrients shall not run off the field during or immediately after application. Annually update NMP when crops, nutrients, and tillage methods change.</li> <li>- Requires soil testing; one sample for every 5 acres every 4 years, using a DATCP-certified laboratory.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifies setbacks and considerations for nutrient application rates, timing and methods near water bodies, conduits to groundwater and where sensitive landscape features exist.</li> </ul> <p>More information: <a href="#">summary</a> and <a href="#">full</a> practice standard document.</p> <p>Information on Wisconsin’s Soil and Water Resource Conservation Rule (ATCP 50) can be found <a href="#">here</a> and information on nutrient management requirement can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
Frequency of Updates	<p>Nutrient Management Plans should be reviewed annually.</p> <p>WPDES permits must be renewed every 5 years and renewal should start 180 days before the permit expires; annual reports filed in January.</p>
Paperwork	<p>Guidance on CAFO annual reports can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>A checklist of CAFO documents to be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Towns and counties may require permits and have additional requirements. Livestock siting permits may be needed for new or expanding dairies based on size and previous permits.<sup>2</sup></p>
Planner Qualifications	<p>A <a href="#">qualified planner</a> must develop the plan and may be dairy operators with appropriate training and certified crop advisors.<sup>3</sup></p>

### *Manure Storage and Application*

Topic	Summary
Overview	<p>Manure storage and application must adhere to the farm’s NMP.</p> <p><a href="#">Wisconsin Nutrient Management Basics Brochure</a>: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) provides an informational brochure on the nutrient management basics.</p> <p>Additionally, a county, city, village or town may adopt an ordinance that establishes standards for manure storage systems.<sup>4</sup> Manure Storage Ordinances listed by county can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Wisconsin also has detailed requirements for Silurian bedrock.<sup>5</sup> Additional information can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
Storage	<p><a href="#">Facility Siting / Setback</a></p>



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Livestock Siting Fact Sheets from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (ATCP) can be found [here](#).

Wisconsin ATCP Rule 51 on livestock siting applies to new and expanding livestock facilities in areas that require local approval, and then only if the facilities exceed 500 or more animal units (this number may be lower in some areas). More information can be found [here](#).

Information on local and state regulations for new and expanding livestock facilities can be found [here](#).

Maximum setback distances established by the state (local ordinances may vary).<sup>6</sup> For facilities with less than 1000 animal units:

- Up to 100 feet from a property line.
- Up to 100 feet from a public road right of way.

For facilities with at least 100 animal units:

- Up to 200 feet from a property line.
- Up to 150 feet from a public right of way.

For new waste storage structures:

- At least 350 feet from a property line.
- At least 350 feet from a public road right of way.

There are also several setback distances set for drinking water wells, sinkholes, and fractured bedrock.<sup>7</sup>

Additional information on regulations can be found [here](#).

*Note: The Wisconsin Siting Regulations are under revisions as of October 2019, but a final version could not be located.<sup>8</sup> Additional details can be found [here](#) and [here](#).*

### Structures

New waste storage facilities (after 2004) must be in accordance NRCS practice standard 313 (Waste Storage Facility – January 2014) and temporary storage must be in accordance with the criteria outlined in the practice standard. A FAQ document on waste storage facilities can be found [here](#).

CAFOs must [submit plans and specifications](#) for reviewable construction projects to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for approval.

### Storage Length

To be eligible for cost-share assistance for the structure, the storage structure must help the operation comply with the farm's nutrient management plan to



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	<p>store manure produced by the animal feeding operation over a normal period of 30 to 365 days. Additional conditions placed on the cost-share are that manure may not be applied to frozen ground, storage structure must be maintained for 10 years and meet appropriate NRCS practice standards.<sup>9</sup></p> <p>WPDES requirements for Large CAFOs include at least 180 Days of Storage.<sup>10</sup></p>
Application	<p><u><a href="#">Spreading</a></u></p> <p>Application of manure must be done in compliance with a <u><a href="#">Wisconsin NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Plan</a></u>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effective incorporation of nutrients within 72 hours of application.</li> <li>- A winter spreading plan.</li> <li>- No spreading on saturated soils or areas of active snow melt where water is flowing.</li> <li>- No application within <u><a href="#">Surface Water Quality Management Areas</a></u> if manure cannot be incorporated due to frozen or snow-covered ground.</li> <li>- Specific requirements for Silurian dolomite soils.</li> <li>- And additional spreading requirements.</li> </ul> <p>Under the WPDES, there are additional requirements for incorporation and winter spreading that can be found <u><a href="#">here</a></u>, and there are requirements for dairies located in a Surface Water Quality Management Area (SWQMA). Requirements for application of solid manure<sup>11</sup> and liquid manure<sup>12</sup> on frozen and snow-covered ground can be found in Table 4 on page 310-6.</p> <p><u><a href="#">Soil Testing</a></u></p> <p>Soil tests should be conducted every 5 acres every 4 years by a state certified lab: <u><a href="https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/NMSoilManureLabs.pdf">https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/NMSoilManureLabs.pdf</a></u>.</p>

### Technical Assistance

Topic	Summary
Software Tools	<p>The University of Wisconsin-Madison created <u><a href="#">SnapPlus Nutrient Management Software</a></u> which is designed for the preparation of nutrient management plans in accordance with the Wisconsin NRCS Nutrient Management Standard Code 590.</p> <p><u><a href="#">Manure Management Planner (MMP)</a></u> is a software tool created by Purdue University that includes state specific information for Wisconsin producers to create manure management plans for crop and animal feeding operations.</p> <p>The <u><a href="#">Manure Tracking App</a></u> allows producers to count and record manure applications on a field-by-field basis.</p>



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Guides / Handbooks	<p><a href="#">Discovery Farms</a> is a farmer-led research and outreach program that conducts research on farms throughout Wisconsin, offers management tips related to conservation topics and provides a full library of research findings.</p> <p>Wisconsin NRCS provides several resources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook</a>.</li> <li>- Templates and informational materials for <a href="#">Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs)</a>.</li> </ul>
Classes / Trainings	<p>Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation (WI Land+Water) county conservation department staff may be able to direct you to local classes on writing a nutrient management plan (contact your <a href="#">county land conservation office</a> or visit the <a href="#">SnapPlus website for more information</a>).</p> <p>Annual CAFO workshops from the Wisconsin DNR and UW-Extension are held early February on <a href="#">nutrient management</a> (producers can find archived presentations on low cost techniques for nutrient management permit compliance <a href="#">here</a> and manure hauling audits and manure distribution information <a href="#">here</a>).</p>
Tailored Expert Assistance	<p>Producers interested in obtaining a NMP can contact a <a href="#">county land conservation office</a> or visit the <a href="#">SnapPlus website for more information</a>.</p> <p>The University of Wisconsin-Madison's <a href="#">Nutrient and Pest Management Program</a> works in partnership with local educators, agencies, and other organizations to help train farmers on nutrient management principles and planning.</p>

### Financial Assistance

#### Summary

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation ([WI Land+Water](#)) county conservation department staff:

- Offer education.
- Provide cost-sharing and technical support.
- Assist with conservation compliance.
- Issue permits under ordinances.

Wisconsin NRCS provides the following assistance:

- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)- offers financial cost-share assistance to farmers for the adoption of conservation practices and development of nutrient management plans.
  - o This helps producers create [Conservation Activity Plans \(CAPs\)](#).
  - o View the state cost share rates and payment schedules [here](#).
- [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), which gives producers financial assistance to implement new conservation management practices and enhancements.



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North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education's (NCR-SARE) offers a [Farmer Rancher Grant Program](#) which provides funding for farmers to explore innovative sustainable solutions to production, marketing, labor and other problems.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (WDATCP) provides a [Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant \(PLWPG\)](#) to groups that focus on nonpoint source pollution.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/LSSitingVsCAFOs.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/LSSitingPermitNeed.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/atcp/020/50/vi/48/2](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/atcp/020/50/vi/48/2)

<sup>4</sup> <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/ATCP%2050.56>

<sup>5</sup> <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/NR%20151.075>

<sup>6</sup> <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/LSSetbacks.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/200/243/ii/14](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/200/243/ii/14)

<sup>8</sup> [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/NR%20243.17\(3\)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/NR%20243.17(3))

<sup>9</sup> [Wisconsin Legislature: Chapter ATCP 50](#)

<sup>10</sup> [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/NR%20243.17\(3\)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/NR%20243.17(3))

<sup>11</sup> [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/NR%20243.14\(6\)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/NR%20243.14(6))

<sup>12</sup> [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/NR%20243.14\(7\)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/administrativecode/NR%20243.14(7))