



Nutrient Management Fact Sheet: Montana

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Nutrient Management Plans

Topic	Summary
Coverage	CAFOs seeking coverage under an MPDES permit must have a Nutrient Management Plan. Producers can obtain an individual permit or a general permit. ^{1 2}
Content	Nutrient Management Plans must: ³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure adequate storage of manure, litter, and process wastewater, including procedures to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the 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 United States. - Ensure proper disposal of chemicals and other contaminants. - Identify appropriate site-specific conservation practices to be implemented, including as appropriate buffers or equivalent practices, to control runoff of pollutants to waters of the United States. - Identify protocols for appropriate testing of manure, litter, process wastewater, and soil. - Establish protocols to land apply manure or process wastewater in accordance with site-specific nutrient management practices that ensure appropriate agricultural utilization of the nutrients in the manure or process wastewater. - Identify specific records that will be maintained to document the implementation and management.
Frequency of Updates	Annual reports must be filed.
Paperwork	Records must be maintained for five years, and a copy of the NMP must be maintained on-site. The NMP must be submitted with the MPDES permit application.
Planner Qualifications	State documents do not describe required professional qualifications or certifications for the individual preparing the Nutrient Management Plan.

Manure Storage and Application

Topic	Summary
Storage	Setbacks Waste lagoons must have the following setbacks: ⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,000 feet between a water well and the design high-water mark of the lagoon.



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- 200 feet between a well for public water supply and a lagoon.
- 100 feet from a water well and a lagoon where no hydraulic connection exists.
- The alternative setback may be allowed.

Storage Length

Livestock waste control facilities must be designed, operated, and maintained to meet the following requirements:

- Minimal critical storage period must be at least 180 days and includes all liquid and solid manure, process wastewater, and other wastes.
- Normal stormwater runoff from the production area for 180 days.
- Volume sufficient to hold runoff equivalent to the 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event or longer.
- Contain the direct precipitation from the 25-year 24-hour rainfall event.
- A minimum of one foot of freeboard.

Application

Spreading

The NMP must include the fields available for land application, field-specific application rates, and timing of application. Application rates must develop using the linear approach or the narrative rate approach.

Application rates must be determined for each field: ⁵

- The USDA Phosphorus index assessment.
- Soil samples based on the Olsen soil test method.

A plan developed in accordance with the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 590 is an acceptable substitute for determining application rates.

Manure must not be land applied under the following conditions:

- Flooded or water-saturated land.
- During or within 36 hours of a rainfall event that exceeds four hours in duration or 0.25 inches or more of precipitation.
- Frozen or snow-covered ground except if the land is at least 300 feet from lakes, streams, intermittent streams, irrigation canals and ditches, open intake structures, property lines, and road right of ways, there is permanent vegetative cover or standing stubble with crop residue greater than 50% and meets land slope requirements. ⁶

Testing

Fields where manure and process wastewater is applied must be sampled at least once every five years. Manure and process wastewater that is land applied must be sampled at least once per year and analyzed for total nitrogen, ammonium nitrogen, total phosphorus, and total potassium. ⁷



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Technical Assistance

Topic	Summary
Software Tools	Manure Management Planner (MMP) is a software tool created by Purdue University that includes state-specific information for Montana producers to create manure management plans for crop and animal feeding operations.
Guides / Handbooks	MT NRCS nutrient management 590 standard .

Financial Assistance

Summary

The Rural Assistance Loan ([RAL](#)) Program provides loans up to \$75,000 to producers ineligible for commercial lender financing. Finances can be used for agricultural property (i.e., farm machinery), farm improvements (i.e., irrigation systems), and more.

MT 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 <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/ruleno.asp?RN=17%2E30%2E1330>

² <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/ruleno.asp?RN=17.30.1322>

³ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/40/122.42>

⁴ <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/ruleno.asp?RN=17.30.1702>

⁵ <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/ShowRuleFile.asp?RID=38050>

⁶ <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/ShowRuleFile.asp?RID=38050>

⁷ <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/ShowRuleFile.asp?RID=38050>