

“Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan: What is it?”

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First of all, the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) title is misleading in that nutrient management is only a small portion of the CNMP process. More appropriately, CNMP's should be viewed as a whole-farm environmental assessment.

Currently, the state of Wisconsin is wrestling with the problem of developing a clear and consistent format for the development of CNMP's. A consistent format would assist both producers and governmental agency personnel in terms of knowing what is to be expected when a CNMP is to be generated or when one is submitted for review.

Discovery Farms has accepted the challenge of assisting with the creation of a standardized CNMP format. In order to test the format, Discovery Farms is working towards developing a research CNMP on 16 individual farming operations across the state. The 16 participating farms represent a dynamic cross section of livestock production facilities within the state. Types of operations represented within the study include dairy, swine, poultry, grazing, confined and traditional farming operations.

The CNMP process is very detailed and comprehensive in that it includes information with regards to the following areas:

Nutrient management planning

Conservation planning

Pest management planning

Feed Management Planning

Grazing planning

Engineering/Resource assessment

An end product of each of the research CNMP's is a list of management recommendations with each section of the CNMP.

An attempt will be made to prioritize the management recommendations along with providing a list of resources available to producers with regards to implementing recommendations.

For more information on the CNMP process and format, feel free to contact Tim

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