

Subpart C - Responsibilities

405.20 NRCS National Headquarters

A. The Deputy Chief for Science and Technology (S&T), under the direction of the Chief, shall provide leadership for continued implementation of technologies and processes that support CNMPs. GM-130, Part 400, Subpart B, Delegations of Authority, Section 400.13, assigns functional responsibilities for CNMPs to the Animal Husbandry and Clean Water Division (AHCWD). The below listed S&T organizational units have the following roles and responsibilities:

- (1) AHCWD, under the direction of the Deputy Chief for S&T, shall:
 - (i) Provide leadership for CNMP technology development, transfer, and training.
 - (ii) Provide leadership for maintaining and updating CNMP policy and technical documents.
 - (iii) Provide leadership for the coordination and implementation of the CNMP Technical Criteria.
 - (iv) Provide leadership in the coordination and cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
 - (v) Provide leadership for the formulation and maintenance of minimum standards for TSPs associated with CNMPs.
- (2) Ecological Sciences Division (ESD), under the direction of the Deputy Chief for S&T, shall:
 - (i) Provide leadership for the development of the technical standards and other technologies to support the CNMP development and implementation.
 - (ii) Provide assistance with the training needs related to CNMP planning and implementation.
- (3) Director of the Conservation Engineering Division (CED), under the direction of the Deputy Chief for S&T, shall:
 - (i) Provide leadership for the development of the technical standards and other technologies to support the CNMP development and implementation.
 - (ii) Provide assistance with the training needs related to CNMP planning and implementation.
- (4) The Coordinator of the TSP Team, under the direction of the Deputy Chief for S&T, shall:
 - (i) Coordinate the TSP certification criteria with AHCWD, CED, and ESD.
 - (ii) Keep the TechReg certification criteria related to CNMPs current for TSPs.
 - (iii) Provide leadership to encourage the use of TSPs.
- (5) National Technology Support Centers (NTSC), under the direction of the Deputy Chief for S&T, shall:
 - (i) Provide technical assistance to the State Conservationist for the implementation of CNMP policy, CNMP development, and CNMP application.
 - (ii) Utilize the Technology Development Teams to acquire new technologies to address nutrient management concerns and facilitate their transfer to States (Manure Management Team, Soil Quality Team, Water Quality and Quantity Team, Air Quality and Atmospheric Change Team, and the Energy Team).
 - (iii) Facilitate the update of national conservation practice standards as needed to ensure that the latest technology is available to States, USDA Field Service Centers, conservation partners, designated agents, and/or TSPs that develop CNMPs.
- (6) The Director of the Resource Economics and Social Sciences Division, under the direction of the Deputy Chief for S&T, shall assist in the development of any economic analyses assessments related to manure management systems, as needed.

B. Deputy Chief for Programs, under the direction of the Chief, shall provide leadership for incorporation of CNMP policy into NRCS conservation planning policy and procedures.

C. Deputy Chief for Strategic Planning and Accountability, under the direction of the Chief, shall provide leadership for incorporation of CNMPs into the NRCS reporting system and provide oversight and evaluation functions associated with CNMP implementation.

405.21 NRCS Regions

Regional Assistant Chiefs shall work with State Conservationists to ensure consistent implementation of and compliance with CNMP policy on a national basis.

405.22 NRCS State Offices

State Conservationists shall:

- (1) Ensure that NRCS State policies are consistent with national CNMP policy.
- (2) Determines procedures to ensure that CNMPs are implemented according to FOTG standards.

- (3) Utilize available tools and technologies to implement CNMP policy.
- (4) Provide recommendations for improvement of CNMP technology development or implementation to AHCWD and/or Water Quality and Quantity Team (WQQT).
- (5) Ensure adequate acquisition of needed expertise and provide training to achieve quality CNMP planning and implementation.
- (6) Provide State leadership for the coordination and implementation of CNMP policy, criteria, and technical guidance.
- (7) Provide State leadership for the formulation and maintenance of State certification standards for TSPs associated with CNMPs.
- (8) Work with State regulatory agencies to clarify regulatory and technical requirements for AFOs.
- (9) Provide State leadership to coordinate CNMP strategies with regulatory agencies and other conservation partners.
- (10) Provide State leadership for the development and maintenance of the State's CNMP development support structure, including cooperation with State-based regulatory authorities and other appropriate agencies, entities, or individuals, to ensure that the most up-to-date nutrient management planning data is available and being utilized.
- (11) Establish or use a certification program that provides for NRCS-approved CNMP planners and certified CNMP specialists associated with the specific elements of a CNMP. Ensure that all pertinent State certification and licensing requirements are met as a part of any established CNMP certification program. Determine how competency will be demonstrated and measured as part of the certification process. Establish a procedure for revocation of certification, as well as recertification. Maintain a current list of NRCS-approved CNMP planners and certified CNMP specialists who are certified to develop specific elements of CNMPs.
- (12) Determine the type and minimum hours of training necessary to maintain the CNMP certified planning specialist designations. Develop or approve training to meet the training requirements for NRCS-approved CNMP planners and certified CNMP specialists.
- (13) Include CNMP products developed by NRCS-approved CNMP Planners and certified CNMP specialists in the State Quality Assurance Plan.
- (14) Review each NRCS-approved CNMP planner and certified specialist designation at least once every 3 years.

405.23 NRCS Area Offices or Equivalent

Area conservationists and equivalents shall:

- (1) Assist field offices with implementing the CNMP policy and technical criteria.
- (2) Report issues needed to be addressed with CNMP planning, and implement and recommend changes and needed improvements.
- (3) Adhere to State and local regulations and guidelines.

405.24 NRCS Field Offices

District Conservationists and equivalents shall:

- (1) Become knowledgeable of and implement the CNMP policy and technical criteria.
- (2) Report issues needed to be addressed with CNMP planning, and implement and recommend changes and needed improvements.
- (3) Adhere to State and local regulations and guidelines.