

AGRI-BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER

*Brought to you by the Michigan Agri-Business Association
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The objective of this document is to provide you with current and helpful information regarding water protection, and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

Creating and implementing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan increases regulatory certainty, protects Great Lakes water quality

The creation of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is an important way for livestock producers to get ahead of the game, improve their regulatory certainty and mitigate their risk. The development of a CNMP, working alongside a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) accomplishes three important goals:

- **Planning:** Developing a CNMP gives farmers an integrated, comprehensive overview of their current practices with regard to nutrient management, identifying best practices already in use, as well as potential for improvement. By working with a certified TSP to develop the plan, producers get an important perspective on their current nutrient management situation.
- **Improvement:** A CNMP provides specific strategies for an operation to reduce the risk of water quality or regulatory challenges. It provides a record of accomplishment that shows how a producer identified and/or took steps to improve their nutrient management.
- **Preparedness:** Developing a CNMP is an important planning step toward greater risk management. Should there ever be a problem, a CNMP also contains critical information that can be used to mitigate impact. The CNMP provides a producer with a “road map” for response, with information at the ready. The result of all of these steps is enhanced risk mitigation.

The CNMP process in Michigan involves ensuring compliance with Michigan’s Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs), as well as USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service technical standards. The development of a CNMP is also an important option of participation in the [Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program for livestock operators](#).

To learn more, or for a reference to a certified TSP in your area, contact the [Michigan Agri-Business Association](#) or [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#).



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