

Step 12

Review and Update the Plan

Developing a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) is not a one-time process, nor should the CNMP exist and operate separately from the overall farm management plan. As part of the farm management plan, the CNMP must be regularly reviewed and updated as conditions change. The Agriculture Environmental Management System (AEMS) model describes a cycle of continuous improvement through regular plan review, updating, implementation, and monitoring. This model is used extensively by manufacturing industries, but is adaptable to the livestock industry. Adaptation of the AEMS model can help facility owners and managers continuously improve environmental conditions, productivity, and profits. For more information about AEMS see the Internet at: <http://www.extention.usu.edu/aems/>

Here are some final suggestions for developing and implementing a CNMP:

- **Commit** to the planning process. Set aside a large block of time (40 hours or more) to initially develop a CNMP. Winter or other slack times may work well with fewer interruptions.
- Develop the **Plan**. Purchase a large (4-inch spine) 3-ring binder and tab system to organize the CNMP. A 12-tab system works well, using one tab divider for each part of the CNMP.
- **Implement** the plan. Refer to the plan regularly as the appropriate farm activities are conducted. Document activities, quantities, yields, soil test information, etc., and file all documentation in the appropriate place in the plan binder.
- **Check** the plan and organize documentation frequently.
- **Review** the CNMP at the end of the year and make necessary modifications in preparation for next year. Set new goals during the review. Also, at this time transfer any older documentation to an archive file such as a metal cabinet for long term storage.
- Include photographs where necessary to document improvements made over time.