

# The NRCS Conservation Plan

Will it help a producer  
meet Chapter 102.4?

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# Conservation plans that include the following may meet 102.4

- “T” over crop rotation
- Additional BMPS for fields with less than 25% cover within 100’ of stream
- AHUA management

Do ALL conservation plans include these elements?

## No and here's why...

NRCS clients may only want assistance to solve a specific set of resource problem on a limited amount of land.

NRCS will provide that assistance for that set of problems while other problems may not be treated.

This is “progressive planning”. It's confidential and voluntary.

# Consider the NRCS planning process with the Jiffy Lube service model



Client requests NRCS assistance to solve a conservation problem.



Car owner requests Jiffy Lube to solve an automotive problem, i.e. change the oil.

United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Pennsylvania

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## Benefits of Developing a Conservation Plan for your Farm or Forest Land:

Conservation planning:

- Identifies immediate or potential resource problems that could hurt your production.
- Helps you comply with environmental regulations.
- Helps you qualify for various USDA conservation programs.
- Adapts to your changing operational goals.
- Establishes a reasonable schedule for you to apply needed conservation practices.
- Can save you time, labor, and energy.
- Saves you money over the long term as your land becomes more productive.
- Facilitates the protection, conservation, and enhancement of existing natural resources.
- Is a crucial element of sustainable development.
- Helps landowners, communities, and planners work together to identify their resources and accomplish multiple objectives that are best for the land, water, and people.

## Pennsylvania Conservation Planning



It's up to you, as an agricultural operator, to decide the best way to improve the productivity, sustainability, and profitability of your operation. For many producers, conservation planning serves as a fundamental starting point for maintaining and improving the natural resources that support productive and profitable agricultural and forestry operations.

## Signature Service® Oil Change HARRISBURG, READING & YORK, PA

A Jiffy Lube Signature Service® Oil Change is more than an oil change. It's a preventive maintenance program that enhances the reliability and longevity of your vehicle.

### Our Technicians Will:

- Change the oil with up to five (5) quarts of quality motor oil.
- Replace oil filter
- Visually Inspect: antifreeze/coolant reservoir levels, engine air filtration system, serpentine belts, brake fluid level in transparent reservoirs, wiper blades, exterior lights
- Vacuum interior floors
- Clean exterior of windows
- Lubricate the chassis (when applicable)
- Check tire pressure

### Check And Top Off The Following Fluids:

- transmission/transaxle fluids
- Differential/Transfer Case fluid
- power steering fluid
- windshield washer fluid
- battery water (excluding sealed batteries)

Bonus! You will also receive free top-offs on motor oil and any or all of these five vital fluids between service visits for up to 3,000 miles.\*\*

Additionally, we will perform a service review, which includes a visual inspection of the engine air filtration and the vehicle manufacturer's severe service\* recommendations based upon the vehicle's current mileage.

### ▼ AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

JIFFY LUBE SIGNATURE  
SERVICE® OIL CHANGE

AIR FILTRATION SERVICE

BATTERY SERVICE

COOLING SYSTEMS

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

ENGINE SERVICE

FUEL SYSTEM SERVICE

INSPECTIONS & EMISSIONS

TIRE ROTATION SERVICE

TRANSMISSION SERVICE

WINDSHIELD SERVICE

# In both models

Customer wants a problem solved

– NRCS – specific problem requested

- Planner inspects the site, identifies additional concerns, offers alternatives, customer decides

– Jiffy Lube – oil change

- Technician inspects the car, identifies concerns, offers alternatives, customer decides

# Alternatives presented

## NRCS planner and client discuss:

- alternative ways to solve the initial problem
- “address” other problems planner has identified:
  - Erosion, water pollution, wildlife, noxious weeds, compaction, ...

## Jiffy Lube and customer discuss:

- Alternative oil qualities for the oil change
- “address” other problems JL has identified:
  - windshield wipers, air filter, coolant, bulbs, belts, ...

NRCS client decides to solve none, one, some, or all problems.

- Client will usually opt to solve original problem.
- Then maybe, treat some but not all of the other concerns identified.

Jiffy Lube client will get the oil change then choose to solve none, one, some, or all other problems.

- Client will usually change the oil
- Then maybe, treat some but not all the other concerns identified

# No obligation

The NRCS client is not obligated to do anything as a result of the conservation planning process.

NRCS has no authority to make the client do anything different.

The results of the planning process are confidential. The plan belongs to the client. NRCS cannot “rat” on a scofflaw.

# However... in a FA Program...

...contracts are enforceable agreements

# Documenting decisions

The conservation plan documents the client's decisions. Clients sign their conservation plan.

The Jiffy Lube receipt documents the customer's decisions. Customers sign their receipts.

# The plan

The written conservation plan is:

- A document of baseline concerns
- A record of baseline conditions including concerns
- A schedule of work the client decides to do to

**D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):**

Minimize erosion in pastures and minimize the number of Animal Concentration Areas. Proper capture and storage of manure; and reduce the potential of nutrient laden runoff.

WATER (continued)												
Quality (Surface Water: Excessive Nutrients and Organics)	-	--	Manure is being animal self-applied to minimal available acreage, causing ACA and the potential for nutrient laden runoff.	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	0	++	Build a Waste Storage Facility to capture and contain manure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pts	0	+	Crop acres converted to additional pasture.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pts
				QC				QC				QC

**Waste Storage Facility**

Install a structure to store liquid/solid waste on a temporary basis. Obtain the services of NRCS or an approved Professional Engineer to design and engineer the manure storage. The storage duration volume, 157000 gallons, will be removed during the spring and fall time period. Operation and Maintenance: The outside of aboveground facilities shall be periodically checked for concrete deterioration. Each time the facilities are emptied, a check of the inside walls shall be made. All cracks and holes shall be immediately filled with elastomeric joint sealant. All joints shall be examined and re-sealed as necessary. Fencing/gates shall be maintained around the structure to exclude animals and humans at all times. Safety equipment (life buoys, ropes, ladders) and warning signs shall be maintained and checked periodically for wear. Any safety shields or grates over the opening shall be maintained in good condition and kept in place.

Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
P3	1.0 no.	9	2011		
Total:	1.0 no.				

# Common conservation plans types

- RMS - Resource Management System
- Progressive plans
- CNMP - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans
- USDA Program Compliance plans

# RMS Plans

RMS plan - When the client decides to treat every identified resource problem or concern identified during planning process.

The RMS plan includes an implementation schedule of conservation practices and managements that, when implemented, will meet the NRCS Quality Criteria for every single natural resource.

# Progressive Plans

Progressive Plan – When the client decides to treat less all of the resource concerns.

- The client may choose to do nothing.
- Even when clients decide not treat concerns, their awareness of those concerns and alternative solutions may lead to a future decision to fix those problems.

In the Jiffy Lube example, even if the customer decides not to change the S-belt or change the air filter that day, he may, as a result of the JL service experience, perform that maintenance in the future.

## CNMP Plans

CNMP is a conservation plan for animal feeding operations (AFO)

An AFO is a lot or facility where:

- animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in a 12-month period, and
- where crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot of facility.

# CNMP Policy

CNMPs are prepared when NRCS provides technical or financial assistance to an AFO or CAFO...

- to address manure or wastewater handling and storage/treatment
- and/or
- provide technical or financial assistance for nutrient management that involves the application of manure and wastewater

Once developed, the CNMP shall be signed by the producer before the installation of any waste storage/handling facilities and nutrient management activities identified in the CNMP are initiated.

# CNMP must...

- At a minimum, the CNMP must include treatments for water quality and soil erosion concerns to meet NRCS quality criteria.

# A written CNMP must address and plan to treat

Excessive nutrients, organics, harmful pathogens, and sediment in surface and ground water so water uses are not adversely affected

## Soil erosion

- Eliminate gullies
- Sheet and rill erosion reduced to T or below

# In Pennsylvania, a CNMP includes

## Three technical elements

- Manure and wastewater handling and storage
  - Animal production area assessment and plan
- Land Treatment
  - Schedule of all practices with narratives and specifications
  - Plan to meet T (RUSLE2)
- Nutrient management
  - Act 38-equivalent (content and format) plan

(policy) Once developed, the CNMP shall be signed by the producer before the installation of any waste storage/handling facilities and nutrient management activities identified in the CNMP are initiated.

At Jiffy Lube, before JL changes the oil, the car owner must agree to do all the maintenance identified during the inspection.

# CNMP summary

A CNMP conservation plan includes an implementation schedule of practices and managements that, if implemented, will:

1. Protect water quality
2. Control erosion at or below T

NRCS has no regulatory authority to compel implementation

A financial assistance contract for items in the CNMP is an enforceable agreement.

# Don't be confused

102 - The NRCS reporting code for a CNMP  
plan

102.4 - Clean Streams Law requiring Ag  
E&S plan

# Food Security Act Compliance Plans

- For program funding USDA requires farmers to follow a conservation plan or system.
- The minimum erosion control for land that was used to produce an Ag commodity prior to December 23, 1985 is 75% reduction on potential erosion rate or two times  $T$ , whichever is less.
- The minimum erosion control for land with no cropping history is  $T$ .

# NRCS partnering...

- Inform clients of state obligations under Clean Streams Law
- Thoroughly review conservation plan with producer explaining what it does and does not include.
- Will adopt PA near stream criteria in 328 and 528 standards.
- Describe RUSLE2 results in 328 narrative.
- Revise pasture, ACA, AHUA guidance and provide additional training.