

**AEM Tier 3A Progressive Conservation Plan Content
March 2009**

- I. Core Planning Elements
 - A. Farm Overview (to be done for Component Planning)
 - 1. Contact Information
 - a. Farmer and planner
 - 2. Farm Overview
 - a. Herd: groups/ages, numbers, weights, animal units
 - b. Crops: types, acres, average or typical rotations
 - c. Farm Facilities: barns, milk center, silos, manure handling & transfer, barnyards, feedlots
 - 3. Maps
 - a. Farm location map
 - b. Soils map w/descriptions
 - c. Topographic map
 - d. Other maps useful to the planning process such as aquifers, wetlands, surficial geology
 - 4. Field Attributes Chart (results of the farm walk)
 - a. Include land use (cropland, hayland, and pasture), waterbodies/wells, program participation, existing practices, and observed resource concerns on a field by field basis
 - 5. Farmer Objectives
 - 6. Watershed/Watershed Concerns
 - 7. Environmental Risks: high priority issues from AEM Tier 2 & farm walk
 - a. Tier 1 Questionnaire
 - b. Tier 2 Summary Report, including any specific risks identified during the farm walk.
 - 8. Priority Natural Resource Issues and Opportunities: determined with the farmer by integrating Farmer Objectives, Watershed Concerns, and Priority Concerns (environmental risk)
 - a. Identify and describe the issues and opportunities indicating what the farmer has agreed to plan now, and those which will hopefully be progressively planned in the future. This will serve as a benchmark narrative of current natural issues and opportunities on the farm.
 - B. Plan Summary (to be done after Component Planning to summarize the components planned)
 - 1. Conservation Plan Summary Narrative
 - a. Components addressed
 - b. Practices to be implemented
 - c. Remaining Priority Concerns to be progressively planned

- d. Permits & Notifications: statements if ground disturbing practices have been planned
 - Cultural Resources Review
 - Dig safely NY
 - Erosion & Sediment Control Plan
- 2. Implementation Schedule (NRCS - Record of Landowner Decisions and Progress in Application CPA-68) for all components planned
- 3. Conservation Plan Maps and Sketches
 - a. FSA tract & field numbers
 - b. Land use designations
 - c. North arrow, legend, & scale
 - d. Planned practices denoted (corresponds with Implementation Schedule)
- 4. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Schedule

II. Component Planning: Farmstead, Cropland Conservation, Nutrient Management, Pasture Management, and Pest/Pesticide Management

A. Items to be reflected in the Plan Summary section (I.B) of the Core Planning Elements

- 1. Benchmark conditions that relate to the specific component(s) being planned should be reflected in the Benchmark Situation (#I.A8) developed for the Core Package.
- 2. Component Plan Narrative – The practices to be implemented to address each component should be reflected in the Conservation Plan Summary Narrative (#I.B1) of the Core Package.
- 3. Implementation Schedule ((NRCS - Record of Landowner Decisions and Progress in Application CPA-68) – The practices to be implemented to address each component should be contained in the Implementation Schedule (#I.B2) of the Core Package
- 4. Conservation Plan Map – The practices to be implemented to address each component should be labeled on the Conservation Plan Map and Sketches (#I.B3) of the Core Package. The labels on the plan map and sketches should correspond to the practices listed in the Implementation Schedule

B. Conservation Practice Tactical Plan – information that is needed to help the farmer make decisions and successfully implement planned practices

- 1. Job Sheets/sketches
- 2. Information Sheets/Guidance Documents
- 3. Details of steps needed to successfully implement a practice
- 4. Farmer Training that may be needed
- 5. Forms and worksheets used to conduct vulnerability assessments and document the level of treatment needed (i.e. – RUSLE 2, Phosphorus Index, Nitrate Leaching Index, WINPST, Manure Storage Screening Tool, etc.)

6. Forms and worksheets used in developing and evaluating alternatives (i.e. – Environmental Effects for Conservation Planning NRCS-CPA-52)

C. Conservation Practice Operation and Maintenance Requirements

1. Specific details customized to the site for each planned practice
2. A general O&M schedule is suggested for the Plan Summary of the Core Package (I.B4)

D. Emergency Action Plan

1. Plan should be developed when any of the following practices or situations are present: manure/process waste water storage; manure transfer; manure and nutrient management, petroleum bulk storage; pesticide storage, mixing, & loading; and bulk fertilizer storage

E. Other Supporting Materials (if applicable)

1. Conservation Assistance Notes
2. District Cooperators Agreement
3. Contracts
4. Cultural Resource Review
5. Permits
6. Designs