

## **Core Planning Elements & Progressive Planning Components** **AEM Base Program Component Planning For Tier 3A – 4/2010**

**To initiate a progressive plan the Core Planning Elements must be developed along with fully planning a minimum of one component where the farmer is willing to make at least one conservation decision.**

**Core Planning Elements:** All progressive plans will include at a minimum the “Core Elements” identified below:

- Contact information
- Maps & resource information
  - Farm location map
  - Soil map & descriptions w/farm boundaries
  - Topo map w/farm boundaries
  - Other maps pertinent to plan development such as wetlands or aquifer
  - Conservation Plan Maps w/ numbered field boundaries, land use, acreage, legend, wells and waterbodies, and planned conservation practices identified (entire farm; rented land optional)
- AEM Tier 1 Questionnaire and Tier 2 Summary Report
- Watershed concerns are identified through completion of the full Watershed Site Evaluation Worksheet
- Conservation program participation and existing conservation plans for the farm are identified through contact with conservation partners and checking case files.
- Interview farmer to formulate:
  - Farm overview narrative
  - Farmer goals & objectives
- Walk the farm including, but not limited to the farmstead, cropland, permanent hay fields, and pastures to verify the results of Tier 2 and to further observe potential resource concerns, opportunities, and hydrologically active areas
- Description of the farm’s benchmark (pre-planning) situation
- Determine the farm’s Priority Natural Resource Issues and Opportunities through consideration of:
  - The farm’s business objectives (obtained through farmer interview)
  - Watershed concerns (Tier 2 Watershed Site Evaluation Worksheet)
  - Environmental risk (results of AEM Tier 2 verified by a farm walk)
- Meet with farmer
  - Utilize the Natural Resource Issues & Opportunities to determine which components will be planned and gain commitment from farmer to address at least one priority concern/opportunity
- Establish Conservation Assistance Notes
- Plan Summary Narrative (how the plan will address the benchmark situation and Priority Natural Resource Issues & Opportunities) integrating all components planned, and those to be progressively planned
- Conservation Practice Implementation Schedule developed integrating all components planned, and those to be progressively planned

## **Progressive Planning Components:**

### **1. Farmstead:**

- NY NRCS 312 Waste Management System Standard
- NY Conservation Practice Guideline – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan – Manure & Waste Water Handling/Treatment/Storage, and Other Considerations sections
- NY Conservation Practice Guideline – CNMP: Barnyard Water Mgmt. System
- CNMP Statement of Work
- Minimum factors to be considered:
  - Barnyard (feedlots, paddocks, laneways, heavy-use areas, calf hutches)
  - Manure Transfer
  - Evaluation of Existing Manure Storage
  - Manure Treatment and/or Storage (requires completion of CNMP)
  - Silage/Feed
  - Milk Center/Process Waste Water
  - Pathogens
  - Mortality Management
  - Fertilizer Storage
  - Petroleum Product Storage
  - Pesticide Mixing/Loading/Storage Facilities
  - Emergency Action Plan – Employee Training Plan
  - Odor Management
  - Operation and Maintenance

### **2. Crop Land Conservation:**

- NY NRCS 328 Conservation Crop Rotation Standard
- NY Conservation Practice Guideline – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan – Land Management section
- Minimum factors to be considered:
  - Field by field evaluation – Hydrologic delivery zones, RUSLE II, concentrated flows, gully/ephemeral erosion, existing BMPs, seeps/springs, sinkholes, neighboring wells, opportunities for buffers, soils and geology
  - Crop Plan Summary (annual acres of grain corn, corn silage, hay, sm. grains, etc.)
  - Evaluation of practices for mitigation of concerns, for example:
    - Conservation Rotations
    - Strips/ Contour Farming
    - Conservation Tillage
    - Cover Crop
    - Waterway/Diversion/ Terrace/ WASCoB
    - Stabilization of roads, lanes, crossings, critical areas
    - Buffers/Borders/Filters
  - Soil Health considerations
  - Irrigation Management
  - Operation and Maintenance

3. **Manure & Nutrient Management:** must be signed off by AEM Certified Planner or a NRCS Certified Planner and must be completed simultaneously with or preceded by the Crop Land Conservation planning component.
- NY NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard
  - NY Conservation Practice Guideline – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan – Nutrient Management section, Record Keeping section, Land Management section, and Feed Management section
  - Minimum factors to be considered:
    - Manure sources & volumes
    - Manure analysis & soil tests(including other associated analyses)
    - Reasonable yields
    - P-Index, N-Leaching Index, and consideration for other risks (wells, sinkholes, sensitive ground water areas, neighbors, etc.)
    - Manure & fertilizer rates accounting for all nutrient sources and risk assessments
    - Timing & method of application (spreading schedule)
    - Practices (set backs, incorporation, buffers, cover crop, rotations, etc.)
    - Consideration of adverse weather conditions
    - Consideration of feed management options
    - Record keeping
    - Screening tool for manure storage
    - Temporary storage
    - Equipment calibration
    - Operation and Maintenance
    - Add cropland/transport manure spill response to the existing emergency action plan
    - Crop Land Conservation planning component
    - Annual update of Nutrient Management Plan
4. **Pasture Management:** (NRCS procedures)
- NY NRCS 528 Prescribed Grazing Standard
  - Minimum factors to be considered:
    - Grazing Management
    - Pasture Quality/Management
    - Pasture Planting
    - Alternative Water
    - Livestock Exclusion/Fencing
    - Laneways/Crossings
    - Buffers
    - Operation and Maintenance

5. **Pest/Pesticide Management:** consider preceding this component with Crop Land Conservation. This plan shall be informational and not prescriptive; for specific pest management recommendations, refer to a pest management specialist.
- NY NRCS 595 Pest Management Standard
  - Minimum factors to be considered:
    - Mixing/Loading Sites
    - Environmental Risk Assessment
      - Verify location of waterbodies, wells, sinkholes, and hydrologically connected areas
      - Evaluate existing set backs and buffers
      - WINPST 3 Pesticide Interaction Reports – identify at risk fields
      - Identify fields with airborne drift concerns
    - Identify mitigation techniques/practices including NYS Elements of IPM
    - Provide sprayer calibration information
    - Discuss record keeping requirements
    - Discuss disposal of pesticide containers and unused pesticides
    - Evaluate mixing & loading sites – plan facility if needed and not already covered in Farmstead component
    - Operation and Maintenance
    - Add pesticide spill response to the existing emergency action plan