

5/27/10

Watershed Agricultural Council Whole Farm Plan

A Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) Whole Farm Plan (WFP) is a document that identifies, addresses and mitigates environmental concerns to protect the water resources of the New York City watershed without negatively impacting the economic viability of the agriculture enterprise while integrating farm business objectives into the decision making process.

The Whole Farm Planning Process:

A WFP is developed by agricultural/conservation professionals and the participating landowner/producer following WAC policy, guidelines and standard operating procedures. The WFP gives specific consideration to aspects of the farm business that relate to water quality objectives and landowner/producer goals. The WFP addresses water quality issues identified through environmental assessments [Environmental Review/Problem Diagnosis (ERPD) and Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)]. The mitigation of these water quality concerns is achieved through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with NRCS and/or WAC Standards. The landowner/producer agrees to implement BMPs according to the WFP schedule and shall maintain and operate BMPs for their designated life span. The plan may periodically be updated or otherwise revised and shall remain in effect for any period when WAC either funds or otherwise ensures that funding is secured for Grantor for construction of BMPs. Grantor must maintain such BMPs in accordance with the Whole Farm Plan and any related contractual obligations.

Funding Restrictions:

In the event that the Whole Farm Plan ceases to be funded and all contractual obligations the Grantor may have with respect to BMPs have expired, agricultural uses and activities on the Property shall be consistent with the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) including, but not limited to, requirements applicable to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) under ECL Article 17, Title 7, and with the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*

A WFP document can include the following documents, but not limited to:

- Environmental Assessment using the Environmental Review/Problem Diagnosis (ERPD) or Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)
- RUSLE2 Soil Erosion Assessment, WINPST Pesticide Leaching and Run-off Assessment and other NRCS assessments as required
- Plan narrative and photo documentation (pre and post planning and implementation)
- Nutrient Management Plan
- WFP Summary (Farm Mission, Vision and goals)
- WFP-2 Funding and Scheduling Agreement
- All WAC BMP procurement documentation, i.e. BMP Funding Agreement (WFP-1)
- BMP Operations and Maintenance Agreements (O&M)
- Record of communication with the Landowner/Participant
- BMP designs and completed “as built”
- Annual Status Reviews
- Any contractual obligations that will affect the development and implementation of the new and/or revised WFP, i.e. federal programs, easements.