

Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

1.1.07

FARM CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION

The Watershed Agricultural Council's (WAC) Agricultural Program shall provide assistance to farmers/producers related to farm expansion or new construction of an agricultural enterprise to protect water quality.

New Farm Establishment / Farm Expansion (Non-Participants)

1. Technical guidance shall be provided through the ERPD or AEM Tier 1 and Tier 2 process to the farmer/producer (non-WAP participant) establishing a new farm or expanding or changing an existing farm.
2. WAP staff shall follow established farm priority ranking methodologies when selecting new farms for program participation and determining funding eligibility for BMPs.

Farm Expansion (WAP Participants)

1. WAP Participants expanding or changing their operation shall be eligible for planning guidance and WAC Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address existing water quality issues. New BMPs shall be approved using the WFP Revision process.
2. Farm production enhancements, future operation changes and non-agricultural construction are not eligible for WAC funding.
3. Prior to farm expansion or operation change, participants shall seek technical guidance from WAP staff and obtain all necessary local, state and federal permits and/or other approvals. Disregard for local, state or federal laws or WAP recommendations will jeopardize the participant's eligibility for future WAC-funded BMPs associated with the expansion.
4. BMPs influenced in size and scope by Animal Units (AUs) or cropland area will be based on the number of existing AUs or acres, not numbers anticipated following farm expansion. BMP implementation may be delayed until the farmer reaches their intended capacity, otherwise the farmer shall cover the difference in cost associated with existing vs. anticipated conditions.
5. Approved BMPs shall be designed and installed using the scheduling criteria developed by the Agricultural Program and based on the availability of funds.
6. The timing of the design and construction of BMPs associated with anticipated structures or site conditions will be at the discretion of planning and technical staff in collaboration with the Program Manager (i.e. before, during or after new farm construction or expansion). WAC and non-WAC projects shall not be bid out or contracted together.
7. WAC shall be responsible for the design and implementation oversight of WAC-approved BMPs only.