

Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

2.1.00.0

PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE

The purpose of this directive is to provide the staff of the Watershed Agricultural Program (WAP) with clear guidelines for the planning and implementation of the Whole Farm Plan (WFP) Best Management Practices (BMPs), until revised otherwise by the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC). These guidelines are in response to the Council and the WAP staff's shared interest in fulfilling our commitments to our program participants, stakeholders, and funders and the continuation of our water quality protection work. WAC will monitor program implementation and revise/reissue this guideline annually.

In support of this guidance, and its effects on WFP BMP planning and implementation, the Council is seeking effective and efficient means of communicating the rationale for these procedural guidelines to our program participants.

In addition to the development of this revised planning and implementation guidance, the Council has adopted a new management BMP, the Enhanced NM Credit Program. This BMP is intended to provide an alternative BMP to producers that qualify for manure transportation BMPs under the Manure Transport Decision making grid. This preferred alternative is described under a separate document.

Review of Cost Guidelines is being conducted on an annual basis to account construction cost inflation. The WAP Management Team (Coaches) will provide these annual recommendations via the Program Manager for review and approval of the Council.

The WAP will continue to utilize the Environmental Review Program Diagnosis (ERPD) and the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) assessment tools.

1. New Whole Farm Plans will be developed in accordance with existing Large and Small Farms program policies, procedures, and practices, as adopted by the WAC. The Operational Guidelines described below do not modify WAC new Whole Farm policies, procedures, and practices. New WFPs, BMPs remain dependent on the availability of funding.
2. Presentation of WFP (new or revised) to Committees and the Council shall be covered by a Farm Summary to include:
 - A. Brief description of the farm enterprise; producer goals; type and number of animals; farm acreage; farm location map; and WFP revision history.
 - B. Basis and date for calculation of current cost guideline.
 - C. Break out list of costs for:
 - a. CREP
 - b. Manure Storage BMPs

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- c. Calf Housing BMPs
- 3. Whole Farm Plan Revisions
 - A.