

Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

2.1.08

NEW BMPs

Watershed Agricultural Council to plan and implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) in accordance with nationally accepted standards and specifications, whenever applicable, to ensure that BMPs are technically sound and recognized by others in the agricultural and environmental communities. The Watershed Agricultural Council recognizes the conservation practice standards included in the Technical Guide, as maintained by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and requires their use in the planning and implementation of BMPs. The Watershed Agricultural Council also encourages the use of innovative BMPs to address water quality concerns, especially instances where USDA-NRCS standards are not applicable. New BMPs that have not been previously approved must be formally adopted by the Board of Directors prior to being included in any Whole Farm Plan.

Staff Guidelines

1. A formal proposal for a new BMP shall be presented to the Action Staff for review. A proposal may come from staff, contract agencies, or an established WAC program committee. The proposal should include justification of the water quality benefits of the proposed BMP including an evaluation of the relative cost, labor, and other on farm/forest impacts.
2. Upon receiving a new BMP proposal, the Action Staff shall facilitate a review and comment period from interested agencies including, but not necessarily limited to, USDA-NRCS, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS Soil and Water conservation Committee and EAC program managers. The Action Staff shall then summarize all comments received and forward a recommendation to the WAC Executive Director.
3. The WAC Executive Director shall present the recommendation and summary of comments to the WAC Executive Committee and subsequently to the Full Council for consideration.
4. WAC shall maintain a list of all adopted and approved BMPs and associated Standards and Specifications which shall be made available to staff.