



United States Department of Agriculture



Connecticut

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Watershed Inspector Training 2019

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Farm Bill Funding Opportunities & Agricultural Properties

Farm Bill Funding Opportunities

2018 Farm Bill (Dec 20, 2018)
Re-signed every five years.... or so.

Significant Programs from NRCS
(other programs available
- 29 different agencies in the Department)

Farm and Producer and Land must meet eligibility

- Income less than current threshold (\$900,000)
- Soil Erosion plan
- Wetlands protection

Farm Bill Funding Opportunities

AMA: Ag Management Assistance

helps farms with specific production/environmental projects

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program

helps farms maintain or improve existing good practices on the farm

RCPP: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

allows partner agencies work with farms to develop EQIP type projects for targeted goals (i.e. water quality or forest health)

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentive Program

helps farm come up to environmental compliance with regulations and/or policies

EQIP

Helping farms come up to environmental standards

One of several resources available to farms
to help come up to environmental compliance
(CT DoAg Programs, EPA 319 Clean Water Funds,
USDA FSA Programs/Loans, Grants)

Can be an effective program for farms planning to make
changes (already budgeted projects)

Provides planning, some design, and reimbursement...
if all requirements are met

EQIP

Helping farms come up to environmental standards

All projects have standards and criteria

Generally try to lump projects into a complete system:

Grazing infrastructure + Grazing Plan & Management
(fence – water – seeding – laneways)

Manure Storage + Farm Plan & Manure Spreading Plan
(scrape alleys – manure storage – diversions)

Not always a 'Quick Fix'

Process of planning, eligibility (paperwork), contracting,
design, construction (payment), then reimbursement

Working with the Farm

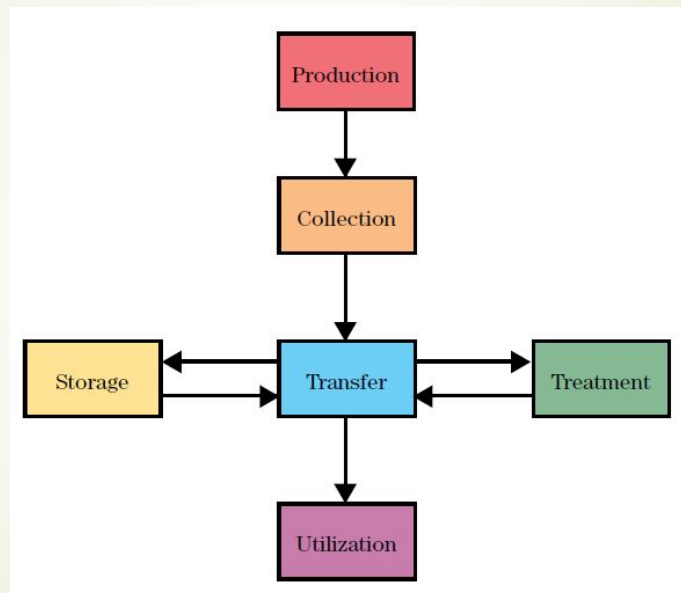
The 'Fix' begins with
Identifying the problems
Developing options or recommendations
Communicating with the producer
Learn from them
Listen to their concerns and needs

Many times – once a producer understands the problem,
They often come up with the best solutions.

Horse Turnout:
Armored
Manure pick up
Allows pastures to grow



Goal in waste management systems



Be able to explain
all the waste
produced and
where it goes

651.0904 (a) Fig 9-2

Common Items on a farm needing Containment (100% capture)



- Animal production area
Barn/Barnyard
- Animal Feeding area
- Feed storage area
leachate: silage, waste feed
- Milkhouse
Line Wash, Floor wash
Rinses, Waste milk
- Animal Laneways or Exercise Yards
- Mortalities
Compost, Burial, Inceneration



Common areas on a farm needing Retention (capture & slow release)



Stormwater runoff

- Roofs
- Access Roads
- Work yards/areas



Feed Storage Area

CAFOs will need 25 yr/24 hr storm retention

Runoff with relatively clean water

Generally speaking: sediments only,
relatively little to no nutrients from manure



Can you keep clean water clean?

- Diversions
- Gutters
- Pipes
- Catchbasins



And keep the dirty water contained?

- In-ground lagoons
- In-ground tanks
- Above-ground tanks
- Shelters: roofed and/or contained solids



Can you reduce the storage volume?

- divert the clean water
- squeeze/dewater the materials
- other secondary treatments

What is generally okay or expected to see on a farm or farm fields?



- Grazing Animals on Grass
- Manure applications for plant growth
- Limited soil exposure
- Prescribed use of chemicals or managements to appropriately develop their crop



Cereal Rye
Planted: 09/10/2015
Picture: 04/22/2016

Limited
Soil
Exposure

Prescribed
Manure
Spreading



Targeted
Chemical
Use

What is not okay or expected to see on a farm or farm fields for Water Quality?

- Exposed soils
- Gullies or washouts
- Dumping – trash or manures
 - manures are generally productive if used for their plant nutrient value
- Over-use of products or chemical spraying on a schedule vs spraying for need or documented threat or pressure (scouting/weather modeling)



Common Problem Areas



Manure piles without a plan
- they just 'disappear' on their own



Animal yards without
soil protection or
manure collection

'Pastures' without grass



Manure on frozen ground
(no infiltration)

* is used in emergency /
overflow prevention

Some Example Problems & Possible Solutions

- Animals accessing water
- Manure storage on farm or in-field stacking
- Animal yards
- Erosion





Full access to water
is discouraged

Limited access...



Or if possible, remove access to water.
Alternate water source
- with armor to prevent mud



Armored stream crossing
- with limited access (fences)



Not so good.



Better...



Better still....



Very Good



Very Good



Mud: not good for animals or environment



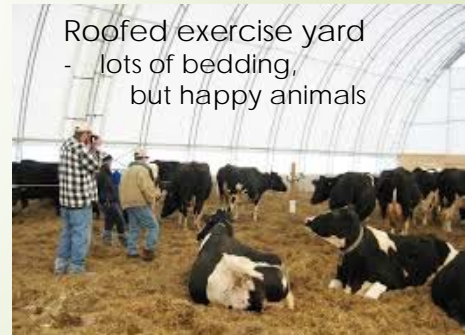
Armored soil + Gutters + Fence



Armored soil (but no restriction)



Add bedding to prevent mud, keep animals clean



Roofed exercise yard
- lots of bedding,
but happy animals



Questions?
or
Specific Examples?