



# Nutrient Management Fact Sheet: Alabama

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*Disclaimer:* This document does not constitute legal advice and is intended for educational purposes only. Readers and users are solely responsible for determining, and complying with, all federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

## Nutrient Management Plans

Topic	Summary
Coverage	<p>All AFO/CAFOs are required to implement and maintain effective best management practices for animal waste production, storage, treatment, transport, and proper disposal or land application that meet or exceed USDA technical standards and guidelines. All CAFOs must register with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and have a waste management system that is designed, constructed, and can be operated and maintained in accordance with an Animal Waste Management System Plan (WMSP).<sup>1</sup></p> <p>CAFOs seeking coverage under an NPDES permit must also meet the animal waste management system plan requirements.</p>
Content	<p>A Waste Management System Plan (WMSP) meets or exceeds NRCS CNMP guidelines and includes:<sup>2</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Detailed management of the entire facility, including proper treatment, storage, handling, transport, and disposal/utilization of wastes and wastewater.</li> <li>- Best management practices.</li> <li>- Nutrient management and land application of wastes.</li> <li>- The nutrient management portions shall include an assessment of the land application site, nutrient budget, buffer requirements, erosion and runoff control practices.</li> </ul> <p>A Waste Management System Plan checklist can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
Frequency of Updates	<p>CAFOs must be inspected annually by qualified credentialed professional inspectors, including all management system facilities, structural controls, and land application sites where wastes/wastewater have been applied in the previous year.</p>
Paperwork	<p>A Notice of Registration must be filed with a proposed schedule for preparation and implementation of an approved WMSP and for submittal of appropriate certification/evaluation of the implementation of the WMSP that is certified by a qualified credentialed professional (QCP).</p>
Planner Qualifications	<p>A WMSP must be prepared by a QCP.<sup>3</sup></p>



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### Manure Storage and Application

Topic	Summary
Storage	<p><a href="#">Structure and Setbacks</a></p> <p>Alabama has extensive setback requirements based on the date established, type of waste facility, and size of operation. A chart of the requirements can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Information on the requirements related to construction activities for AFOs and CAFOs can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Owners/operators of registered CAFO facilities are required to attend annual continuing education training. <sup>4</sup></p>
Application	<p><a href="#">Spreading</a></p> <p>Alabama has extensive land application setback requirements depending upon the type of application. A chart with details can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Testing</a></p> <p>Waste and/or wastewater to be land applied shall be collected periodically, but at least annually and analyzed for pH, total nitrogen, ammonium nitrogen, total phosphorus, total potassium, percent solids, and select metals. The subsurface soils of each field where waste/wastewater has been or will be land applied shall be sampled according to accepted standard soil sampling procedures. <sup>5</sup></p>

### Technical Assistance

Topic	Summary
Software Tools	<p><a href="#">Manure Management Planner (MMP)</a> is a software tool created by Purdue University that includes state-specific information for Alabama farmers to create manure management plans for crop and animal feeding operations.</p>
Guides / Handbooks	<p>AL NRCS <a href="#">nutrient management 590 standard</a>.</p> <p>AL Cooperative Extension provides <a href="#">forms</a> to assist producers in properly documenting items such as lagoons and other nutrient management matters.</p>
Classes / Trainings	<p>Owners/operators of registered CAFO facilities can inquire about continuing education training (CEU) opportunities by contacting their <a href="#">local Extension office</a>, <a href="#">NRCS service center</a>, or the <a href="#">local Soil and Water Conservation District</a>.</p>
Tailored Expert Assistance	<p>AL Department of Environmental Management maintains a list of <a href="#">Certified Animal Waste Vendors</a> and <a href="#">Qualified Credentialed Professionals</a> to aid AFOs/CAFOs in waste management compliance.</p>



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### Financial Assistance

#### Summary

AL NRCS provides assistance through:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program ([EQIP](#)) - offers financial cost-share assistance to farmers for the adoption of conservation practices and development of nutrient management plans.
- Conservation Stewardship Program ([CSP](#)), which gives producers financial assistance to implement new conservation management practices and enhancements.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://adem.alabama.gov/programs/water/cafo.cnt>

<sup>2</sup> <http://adem.alabama.gov/alEnviroRegLaws/files/Division6Vol1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://adem.alabama.gov/alEnviroRegLaws/files/Division6Vol1.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://adem.alabama.gov/programs/water/waterforms/ADEMCAFOContinuingEducationInformation.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://adem.alabama.gov/alEnviroRegLaws/files/Division6Vol1.pdf>