



Nutrient Management Fact Sheet: **Maine**

Updated MAY 2021

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>Farms meeting certain conditions are required to have a Nutrient Management Plan. Farms requiring a plan are:¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farms that confine and feed 5 or more animal units at any one time. - Farms that store or utilize more than 100 tons of solid manure or 25,000 gallons of liquid manure or compost per year not generated on that farm. - Farms that are the subject of a verified complaint of improper manure handling. - Farms that store or utilize regulated residuals. <p>Some large operations must obtain a Livestock Operations Permit (LOP) (confines and feeds 300 or more animal units at any time during the year). A LOP can be combined with a MEPDES permit, and an NMP is required under the permit.</p>
Content	<p>NMPs must include:²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on the animal units on the farm. - Storage and utilization of manure and off-farm nutrients on all land, including leased and/or rented land. - Calculation of crop nutrient needs. - Soil erosion control plan. - Soil tests for each field where manure will be applied and manure testing. - Vegetated treatment areas and/or filter strips included in the plan. - Exclusion of livestock from waters of the date. - Site-specific dates for spreading manure. - Timeline for implementation of the plan. - Setbacks for manure spreading.
Frequency of Updates	NMPs must be updated at least once each year and approved by a certified NMP specialist at least every 5 years.
Paperwork	NMPs must be submitted with the permit application.
Planner Qualifications	NMPs must be prepared and approved by a Certified Nutrient Management Planner or approved and signed by a Certified Nutrient Management Planner.

Manure Storage and Application

Topic	Summary
Storage	Facility Siting/Setback



Nutrient Management Fact Sheet: **Maine**

	<p>Storage and manure stacking sites must be a minimum of 100 feet from drinking water wells.</p> <p><u>Structure</u> Waste storage facilities must be in conformance with NRCS conservation practice standard 313, Waste Storage Facilities.</p> <p><u>Storage Length</u> Storage capacity must be for a minimum of 180 days.</p>
Application	<p><u>Spreading</u> Site-specific setbacks must be included in the NMP as recommended by a qualified professional based on the Manure Utilization Guidelines. A manure application setback of a minimum of 100 feet from drinking water wells is required.</p> <p><u>Incorporation</u> Ban on <u>winter manure spreading</u> from December 1st through March 15th.</p> <p><u>Testing</u> Under the NMP, soil tests must be repeated for each field at least every five years. Manure testing must be completed at least every five years or when a significant management change will affect the manure nutrient values.</p>

Technical Assistance

Topic	Summary
Software Tools	<u>Manure Management Planner (MMP)</u> is a software tool created by Purdue University that includes state-specific information for Maine producers to create manure management plans for crop and animal feeding operations.
Guides / Handbooks	ME NRCS <u>nutrient management 590 standard</u> .

Financial Assistance

Summary

The [Nutrient Management Loan Program](#) helps farms and other agricultural businesses fund nutrient management projects such as the construction of new manure or milk house waste containment facilities or repairs to existing facilities, composting facilities, and other related projects in the State of Maine.

The [Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund \(AMLF\)](#) provides eligible borrowers direct loans of up to \$250,000 at a 5% fixed interest rate to make capital improvements to enhance the viability and vitality of the farm.

The [Dairy Improvement Fund \(DIF\)](#) is intended to assist dairy farmers in providing eligible borrowers direct loans of up to \$250,000 at a 1% fixed interest rate for capital improvements.



Nutrient Management Fact Sheet: **Maine**

ME 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.

¹ [Title 7, §4204: Nutrient management plan \(mainelegislature.org\)](#)

² [Title 7, §4204: Nutrient management plan \(mainelegislature.org\)](#)