

Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

2.1.01

WHOLE FARM PLANS AND PLANNING

A Watershed Agricultural Program (WAP) Whole Farm Plan (WFP) is a collection of documents and files that identifies, addresses and mitigates environmental resource concerns to protect the New York City watershed without negatively impacting the economic viability of the agriculture enterprise by integrating farm business objectives into the decision making process. Whole farm planning is done as a collaborative effort between WAP Staff and participants to address water quality issues.

1. Whole Farm Plans

A. A WFP is developed by agricultural/conservation professionals in partnership with the participating landowner/producer using the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Process to identify resource concerns. These resource concerns are organized into 11 pollutant categories (previously created from the Environmental Resource Problem Diagnosis (ERPD)) which are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Parasites and Phosphorus – Animal Waste Storage ii. Pesticides – Storage Facilities; Mixing/Loading Areas iii. Phosphorus – Fertilizer Storage iv. Parasites – Animal Management and Manure Management v. Nutrient Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v.2 Nutrient Management - CREP vi. Nutrients – Concentrated Sources vii. Sediment – Concentrated viii. Sediment – Diffuse ix. Pesticides – Field and Animal Application x. Fuel Storage xi. Other Materials |
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B. All WFP's shall be developed containing Best Management Practices (BMPs) or Identified Resource Concerns (IRCs) that address water quality issues that fall into the 11 pollutant categories referenced above.

C. A WFP may include but is not limited to the following:

- Farm Information
- Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)
- Maps
- Field level assessment tools
- Funding and Scheduling agreements
- Communications
- Annual Status Reviews

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- BMP documentation
- Other programmatic documentation

2. Whole Farm Planning

- A. Planning staff will work with the participant to formulate and evaluate alternative solutions to address environmental resource concerns identified through the AEM process.
- B. Planning staff will need to apply sound professional judgment utilizing the most cost effective BMPs to address the environmental resource concerns. The planning, design and construction of BMPs shall meet the standards and specifications of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), when applicable. In the absence of NRCS standards the WAP will select other accepted standards and specifications to address the environmental resource concerns. See 2.1.08 (New BMPs Guideline)
- C. Planning staff will perform an Annual Status Review (ASR) and manage/revise the WFP as needed.
- D. New and revised WFP will go through a review and approval process. Plans are reviewed at separate meetings of Planners (Peer Review), Managers (Coach Meeting), and Ag Program Committee.
 - a. All new WFPs will be presented to the Ag Program Committee for discussion and approval.
 - b. Revised WFPs will be presented to the Ag Program Committee for discussion and approval when the additional funds requested exceed the threshold of \$200,000.
 - c. Revised WFPs that do not exceed the thresholds will be approved by the Ag Program manager. The Ag Program Committee will receive copies of these plans for information only.
 - d. Any WFP can be presented for discussion and approval at the request of Ag Committee members or Ag Program Manager.
 - e. All IRCs will be presented to Planner's Peer Review for discussion and approval. Approved IRCs will be provided 'for information' to the Coach review. The coaches can request an IRC for presentation and approval. The Ag Program Committee will receive copies of these IRC revisions for information only.

Related Guideline/SOPs:

- 2.1.01.01, 2.1.01.02, 2.1.01.03, 2.1.01.04, 2.1.01.05, 2.1.01.06, 2.1.01.07, 2.1.01.08, 2.1.01.09

Deleted/Combined Guidelines:

- 2.1.02, 2.1.03, 2.1.07

APPROVED 12-10-2019