

Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

1.1.08

WATERSHED AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM (WAP) PARTICIPANT STATUS

The purpose is to determine the status for each WAP Participant for the protection of water quality. This guideline will define the responsibilities of the WAP regarding Annual Status Review's (ASR's) and future implementation & maintenance of Best Management Practices (BMP's) on these farms.

<u>Status</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Prospective	<p>A farm interested in joining the WAP that has completed an application (AEM Tier I).</p> <p><u>Prospective Ineligible</u>- An agricultural enterprise that does not meet the program's minimum eligibility requirements (defined in Guideline 1.01.01 'Eligibility for Participation/Whole Farm Plan') after application review.</p> <p><u>Prospective Eligible</u>- An agricultural enterprise that has completed an application and meets the minimum eligibility requirements after application review. The program will conduct a Tier II - Environmental Review to then be ranked and prioritized for potential Whole Farm Plan development. Applications will be valid for 5 years following the Tier II. After 5 years the application will be considered invalid and will not be considered for new Whole Farm Plan development. The farm enterprise will be notified their application is no longer valid. A new application can be submitted by the prospective participant to make the enterprise valid again.</p>
Active	<p>Participants that have active agricultural production in the NYC Watershed, have signed a WFP-1 and WFP-2, meets minimum eligibility requirements (defined in Guideline 1.01.01 'Eligibility for Participation/Whole Farm Plan'), supports the implementation of approved BMP's, agrees to adhere to O&M requirements and participate in an Annual Status Review (ASR).</p>
Active - ineligible	<p>Participants that have active agricultural production in the NYC Watershed, have signed a WFP-1 and WFP-2. However, their operation is currently below the minimum eligibility requirements. No new BMP implementation will be conducted on an Active – ineligible farm, but an appropriate ASR based on the farming operation will be performed as determined by the ASR SOP. Participants agree to adhere to O&M requirements for existing BMPS. Repair and Replacement of existing BMPs will be evaluated on a case by case basis. On eased properties agricultural uses and activities falling within this status shall be considered consistent with a current WFP.</p>
Inactive	<p>A land base with a previously approved WFP that is not currently engaged in agricultural production (less than 1 animal unit, less than 1 acre of annual crops, less than 5 acres of hay). No BMP implementation will be conducted on an inactive farm but a verification ASR will be performed.</p>
Retired Farm Number	<p>A land base that has had no agricultural activity on their farm for 5 years or more, or now has farm activity covered under another WFP. Farms with current CREP or other USDA contracts would not have their farm number retired. Upon land transfer, if a new landowner chooses to not participate, then the farm is retired. Future agricultural activity on this property would be eligible to enter the WAP process as a prospective participant, the original farm number may be reinstated once prioritized for new whole farm development. Eased properties will be prioritized for Whole Farm Plan development if ag activity begins to occur again above the eligibility requirements.</p>

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Transitioning Farm	<p>A participating farm that is undergoing a transition in the farm enterprise. This could include but is not limited to impending sale, land transfer, business change (i.e. documented livestock sale) that has potential to effect program eligibility. This is to be treated as a temporary status to allow the program to complete the necessary steps to make them eligible for another status (active; active- ineligible; inactive, or retired). All BMP implementation will be put on hold, however, cover crops and submissions for Nutrient Management Credit will continue if the existing participant meets the associated guidelines. Planning activities (ASR, revisions, technical guidance, nutrient management planning) can continue and staff will work toward placing farm in another status. A farm shall not be in a “Transitioning Farm” status for more than 2 consecutive years. On eased properties agricultural uses and activities falling within this status shall be considered consistent with a current WFP.</p> <p>A participant submitted into this status shall be reported to the Agricultural Committee.</p>
Suspended	<p>A participant that is actively involved in agricultural production that is involuntarily suspended due to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Any of the parties’ failure to follow the WFP-1 provisions. B. Failure by any of the parties to make reasonable progress in implementing the BMPs on his/her WFP2. C. Continued conduct detrimental to the program. <p>This status requires the approval of the Agricultural Committee. A letter to the participant will inform them of the suspended status, detailing the timeline, and explain the next course of action.</p>
Withdrawn	<p>A participant that voluntarily removes themselves from the WAP. A withdrawn farm is no longer considered a WAP participant and gives up all associated benefits that the WAP offers. This status requires the approval of the Agricultural Committee.</p>
Terminated	<p>A participant that has had their program enrollment revoked. A terminated farm is no longer considered a WAP participant and gives up all associated benefits that the WAC offers. This status requires the approval of the Agricultural Committee.</p>
Conservation Participant	<p>Participants that are not directly associated with an existing WFP and own or operate land within the NYC watershed boundaries and have signed a CP-1 & Conservation Plan (CP-2). These lands are eligible for all WAC programs, in accordance with Guidelines and SOPs, and program capacity.</p>