

# State Soil and Water Conservation Standards



## For farmers who grow agricultural crops

- Meet tolerable soil loss ("T") on cropped fields and eliminate gully erosion.
- Maintain tillage setbacks of a minimum 5' from stream banks. This setback may be extended up to 20 feet to protect bank stability & prevent deposition of soil into surface waters.
- Follow a nutrient management plan designed to limit runoff of nutrients into state waters (surface water and groundwater) using current soil test data to manage nutrient applications over cropland rotations.

## For farmers who raise, feed, or house livestock

- Meet tolerable soil loss ("T") on pastures.
- Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters.
- Limit livestock access to waterways and wetlands to maintain vegetative cover.
- Prevent significant discharge of process wastewater to state waters from feed storage or other sources.
- Follow a nutrient management plan for manure application using current soil test data.

## For farmers who have, or plan to build, a manure storage structure

- Maintain structures to prevent overflow.
- Repair or upgrade any failing or leaking structures that pose an imminent health threat or that violate groundwater standards.
- Close abandoned structures according to accepted standards.
- Meet NRCS technical standards for any newly constructed or substantially altered structures.

## For farmers with land in a Water Quality Management Area (300 feet from a stream or 1,000 feet from a lake, pond, or flowage or in areas susceptible to groundwater contamination)

- Do not stack unconfined manure piles.
- Divert clean water away from feedlots, manure storage areas, and barnyards located within this area.

## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS (NM Plans)

To meet NM Plan standards, farmers may hire a certified crop advisor or prepare their own NM plans if they complete a DATCP-approved training course. These plans must:

- Rely on updated soil nutrient tests conducted by a DATCP certified lab, with soil samples every 4 years.
- Use the phosphorus index (PI) standard to ensure the NM Plan adequately controls phosphorus runoff.
- Comply with current NRCS Nutrient Management Standard 590.
- Follow a Winter Spreading Plan for any winter application on frozen or snow-covered soils.
- Provide a nutrient management plan checklist to the county annually by March 15.