Implementing USDA NRCS' Nutrient Management Policy. (S04-lemunyon082457-Oral)

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Abstract:

USDA-NRCS issued new policy in May, 1999 how the agency would implement nutrient management for its conservation planning and cost share programs. States had two years, until May 2001, to adapt the national policy and develop a conservation practice standard, including nutrient management risk assessment tools that are appropriate for each state. Since 2001 the states are putting their own nutrient policy into action. All these efforts have taken a lot of time, and the work continues. States are in process of training planners and others involved with nutrient management, including private consultants, who will be sharing the large workload anticipated under evolving state and federal government regulations and financial programs. To aid in large and complex workload a number of computer spreadsheets and software programs have been developed. Templates are available to craft individual producer plans and reports for overseeing agencies. All states are endeavoring to integrate their nutrient management plans into the larger frame of manure management (comprehensive nutrient management plans, CNMP) and the over-all conservation plan.

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