

Effective August 9, 2001

RULES  
OF  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

CHAPTER 40-16-6  
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

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**40-16-6-.01 Definitions.**

(1) A Certified Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) Specialist is an individual certified by the Georgia Department of Agriculture to develop and modify NMPs for animal feeding operations in accordance with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6.

(2) A Certified Conservation Planner is an individual identified by USDA NRCS as being trained according to criteria set forth in section 40-16-6-.03 (2) and competent to develop NMPs.

**40-16-6-.02 Application for Nutrient Management Plan Specialist Certification.**

Application for NMP Specialist Certification shall be made to the Georgia Department of Agriculture (hereafter in this Chapter referred to as "Department") on a form approved by the Department.

**40-16-6-.03 Nutrient Management Plan Training**

(1) An individual may apply to the Department for certification provided one of the following training criteria has been met:

(a) Complete a minimum of two days of NMP training and testing approved by the Department and demonstrate competency by developing an acceptable plan, or

(b) Be a current employee of the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or currently receiving technical supervision from an NRCS employee and be identified by such agency as being a "Certified Conservation Planner," or

(c) Be certified as a Certified Conservation Planner through a NRCS recognized program and curriculum by private organization and professional groups.

(2) Training programs must include, but are not limited to the following: (a) state water quality laws and rules, (b) manure and wastewater handling and storage, (c) land application of manure and waste water, (d) site management, (e) best management

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practices, (f) record keeping, (g) mortality management, (h) emergency response, (i) and closure plans for waste storage systems.

#### **40-16-6-.04 Nutrient Management Plan Certification**

(1) A NMP Specialist shall be considered certified when the applicant demonstrates competency in all of the above listed areas of training. The Department shall issue a certificate to the NMP Specialist upon the successful completion of training and certification.

(2) A NMP Specialist must receive a minimum of 4 hours continuing education every two years from the date of the original certification. The NMP Specialist should assure that education subject matter is pertinent to nutrient management planning and should maintain documenting records. The Department may request the NMP Specialist to provide proof of such continuing education.

(a) Failure of a NMP Specialist to receive continuing education will result in suspension of certification and may require recertification.

(b) Each Certified Nutrient Management Plan Specialist certification may be reviewed at least once every three years by the Department. The Department will review NMPs prepared by the specialist. If an individual fails to meet the criteria for the NMP Specialist, the status will be revoked and the individual must be recertified.

(3) The Department has final authority over training, certification and continuing education.

(4) The Department shall provide the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division with a current list of Certified Nutrient Management Plan Specialists upon request.

Authority O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-20, as amended; DNR Rule 391-3-6-.20 and 391-3-6-.21.