

5. Review of the Proposed Draft and Proposed Draft Revised Standards: Criteria for Elaboration or Revocation of Individual Standards for Cheeses; Cream; Dairy Spreads; Fermented Milk Products; and Processed Cheese; at Step 4.

6. Heat Treatment Definitions.

7. Model Export Certificate for Milk Products.

8. Review of Proposed Standard for "Parmesan."

Done at Washington, DC: April 16, 1998.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex.

[FR Doc. 98-10652 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-023N]

HACCP Implementation for Small Plants

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is holding a public meeting to discuss ways to help owners and managers of small plants prepare for the HACCP implementation date of January 25, 1999. The meeting will give all stakeholders an opportunity to hear what is currently being done to help small plants and to discuss additional ways of ensuring that small plants receive the assistance they need to make the transition to HACCP.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 7, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14th and K Streets, NW, Washington, DC; telephone (202) 682-0111.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To register for the meeting, contact Ms. Sheila Johnson of the Planning Staff, FSIS, at (202) 501-7138 or by FAX at (202) 501-7642. If a sign language interpreter or another special accommodation is required, please contact Ms. Johnson at (202) 501-7138 by April 30, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 25, 1996, FSIS published a final rule, "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems (61 FR 38806). The rule established a HACCP implementation schedule for establishments based on their size. Large plants began implementing HACCP on January 26, 1998. Medium to small plants have a

scheduled implementation date of January 25, 1999, and very small plants are required to implement HACCP by January 25, 2000.

Since publication of the final rule, FSIS has been holding a series of public meetings to facilitate implementation of HACCP plans, especially by small and very small establishments. The Agency also has provided extensive information and technical assistance that would be helpful to plant managers in development of their HACCP systems. The Agency also has developed and distributed generic HACCP models and guidance materials specifically to aid small plant managers.

The May 7 meeting will include presentations on what assistance the Agency is currently providing and what additional help will be offered. There also will be a panel discussion on the role of the private sector and general discussion on what else can be done to assist small plants with HACCP implementation. The meeting is open to the public on a space-available basis.

Done in Washington, DC, on April 15, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-10603 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspapers Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions for the Northern Region; Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Portions of South Dakota and Eastern Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists the newspapers that will be used by all Ranger Districts, Forests, and the Regional Office of the Northern Region to publish legal notice of all decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215 and 217 and to publish notices for public comment and notice of decision subject to the provisions of 36 CFR 215. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notices for public comment or decisions; thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of a decision, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the appeals process.

DATES: Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers will begin with decisions subject to appeal that are made on or after April 23, 1998. The list of newspapers will remain in effect until another notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kristine M. Lee; Regional Appeals and Litigation Coordinator; Northern Region; P.O. Box 7669; Missoula, Montana 59807. Phone: (406) 329-3647.

The newspapers to be used are as follows:

Northern Regional Office

Regional Forester decisions in Montana:

The Missoulian, Great Falls Tribune, and The Billings Gazette.

Regional Forester decisions in Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington:

The Spokesman Review.

Regional Forester decisions in North Dakota: Bismarck Tribune.

Regional Forester decisions in South Dakota: Rapid City Journal.

Beaverhead/Deerlodge—Montana Standard

Bitterroot—Ravalli Republic

Clearwater—Lewiston Morning Tribune

Custer—Billings Gazette (Montana)

Bismarck Tribune (North Dakota)

Rapid City Journal (South Dakota)

Flathead—Daily Interlake

Gallatin—Bozeman Chronicle

Helena—Independent Record

Idaho Panhandle—Spokesman Review

Kootenai—Daily Interlake

Lewis & Clark—Great Falls Tribune

Lolo—Missoulian

Nez Perce—Lewiston Morning Tribune

Supplemental notices may be placed in any newspaper, but time frames/deadlines will be calculated based upon notices in newspapers of record listed above.

Dated: April 15, 1998.

Kathleen A. McAllister,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 98-10641 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Nutrient Management Technical and Program Assistance Activities

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of proposed policy revision.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to adopt a revised policy for nutrient management related technical and program assistance activities. This revised policy will impact the NRCS national conservation practice standards for Nutrient Management (Code 590) and Waste Utilization (Code 633).

DATES: Comments must be received by June 22, 1998. This revised policy will be adopted after the close of the 60 day comment period. It will be issued as part 503 of the NRCS National Agronomy Manual.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions or comments about this policy should be directed to Ecological Sciences Division, NRCS, Washington, D.C. Submit questions or comments in writing to Charles H. Lander, Nutrient Management Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Room 6155-S, Washington, D.C. 20013-2890.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires the NRCS to make available for public review and comment proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law. For the next 60 days the NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on April 6, 1998.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

National Agronomy Manual, Subpart B—Nutrient Management; Proposed Policy

Policy Section

503.20 General

(A) The following definitions apply to terms used in this policy.

(1) **Nutrient Management:** Managing the amount, source, placement, form, and timing of the application of nutrients and soil amendments to ensure adequate soil fertility for plant production and to minimize the potential for environmental degradation, particularly water quality impairment.

(2) **Nutrient:** Any of the elements considered essential for plant growth, particularly the primary nutrients; nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

(3) **Conservation Management Unit (CMU):** A field, group of fields, or other land units of the same land use and having similar treatment needs and planned management. A CMU is a grouping by the planner to simplify planning activities and facilitate development of conservation management systems. A CMU has definite boundaries, such as fence, drainage, vegetation, topography, or soil lines.

(4) **Nutrient Source:** Any material (i.e. commercial fertilizer, animal manure, sewage sludge, irrigation water, etc.) that supplies one or more of the elements essential for plant growth.

(5) **Third Party Vendor:** An individual (excluding Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees) who has been certified by an approved certification organization as being qualified to provide specified types of conservation assistance, and whose certifying organization participates in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Approved Vendor Process outlined in Part 504, "Conservation Assistance from Third Party Vendors" of the NRCS Conservation Programs Manual. Third Party Vendor certification programs may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Program of the American Society of Agronomy.

(b) Land Grant University certification programs.

(c) National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC).

(d) Professional engineering organizations.

(6) **Nutrient Management Specialist:** A person who provides technical assistance for nutrient management and has the certification required by this policy.

(7) **Nutrient Management Plan:** A documented record of how nutrients will be used for plant production. The content of such plans shall be developed in accordance with the provisions of this policy. Plans developed by NRCS employees shall be developed as a component of the more comprehensive conservation plan developed for the CMU.

(B) The policy and procedures contained in this section are applicable to all technical assistance that involves nutrient management and/or the utilization of organic by-products, including animal manure, where nutrients are applied to the land. All NRCS employees shall follow these policies and procedures when providing such technical assistance. Third party vendors shall utilize these policies and procedures when assisting with the implementation of Federal conservation programs for which NRCS has national technical responsibility and that includes nutrient management components.

(C) Nutrient management plans shall be developed in compliance with applicable Federal, State, and/or local regulation. This policy takes precedence over State and/or local regulations when such regulations are less restrictive than NRCS policy. In situations where State and/or local regulations are more restrictive than NRCS policy, they take precedence over this policy.

(D) NRCS encourages third party vendors be a focal point for providing nutrient management and related technical assistance to farmers and others who apply nutrients for

plant production. To promote third party vendor activity, NRCS will make available lists of names of persons certified to provide various types of technical assistance.

(E) NRCS at the State level can supplement this policy to make it more restrictive or inclusive.

503.21 Certification

(A) NRCS employees and third party vendors who review and/or approve new or revised nutrient management plans shall be certified by a certification program acceptable to NRCS within the pertinent State.

(B) NRCS employees and third party vendors who review approved new or revised nutrient management plans may also be required to meet additional requirements as established by NRCS in the State in which they are employed.

(C) The CCA program is recommended for use in States that have or use no other recognized certification programs in the State.

503.22 Nutrient Management Plans

(A) All nutrient management plans are considered elements of the overall conservation plan for the CMU. As such, the provisions of the nutrient management plans shall recognize other requirements of the conservation plan and not include provisions that make it impossible for producers to comply with both the nutrient management provisions and other provisions of the conservation plan.

(B) Nutrient management plans shall be developed in accordance with technical requirements of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) and procedures contained in the National Planning Procedures Handbook. As a minimum, the following components shall be included in the description of a nutrient management plan where applicable.

(1) Aerial Site Photographs or Maps and a Soil Map

(2) Current and/or Planned Plant Production Sequence or Crop Rotation

(3) Soil Test and Plant Tissue Test Results

(4) A Complete Nutrient Budget for the Plant Production System

(5) Realistic Yield Goals

(6) Quantification of all important Nutrient Sources (this could include but not be limited to commercial fertilizer, animal manure and other organic by-products, irrigation water, atmospheric deposition, etc.).

(7) Recommended Rates, Methods, and Timing of Nutrient Application

(8) Location of Designated Sensitive Areas or Resources (if present on the conservation management unit).

(9) Guidance for Implementation, Operation, and Maintenance

(C) The format and appearance of nutrient management plans shall be in accordance with the NRCS National Planning Procedures Handbook and other guidelines adopted by NRCS in the State.

(D) Except for situations described in Sections 503.24(c) and 503.25(A)(3), all nutrient management plans shall be

developed to meet the nutrient application requirements for a Resource Management System (RMS) level of treatment, as described in Section 503.24.

(E) Progressive plans for nutrient management, described in Sections 503.24(C) and 503.25(A)(3), may be developed with existing operations that produce and apply animal manure or other organic by-products to the land, when they lack the land resources needed to meet RMS nutrient application rate requirements.

(F) If the conservation management unit lies within a hydrologic unit area that has been designated as having impaired water quality associated with nutrients, nutrient management plans shall include an assessment of the potential risk for nitrogen or phosphorus to be associated with the water quality impairment. The Nitrogen Leaching Index and/or Phosphorus Index (PI), or other acceptable assessment tools, may be used to make these assessments. When such assessments are required, nutrient management plans shall include:

(1) A record of the site vulnerability ratings for each field.

(2) Information about conservation practices and management actions that can reduce the potential for phosphorus movement from the field.

(G) Review And Revision Of Nutrient Management Plans

(1) The provisions of nutrient management plans shall be reviewed annually to determine if short term adjustments or modifications to the plan are needed for the next crop. The results of the review will be documented in the plan, as will the identification of the person who made the review.

(a) Annual reviews may be completed by the producer or the representative of the producer. Persons completing the annual review are not required to be certified according to the provisions of Section 503.21 of this policy.

(b) When an annual status review indicates that a revision of the plan is needed, the revised plan shall be approved by a certified nutrient management specialist.

(2) A thorough review of the nutrient management plan shall be done on a regular cycle not to exceed five years or the length of the crop rotation. NRCS State Conservationists may require a more frequent review cycle. The plan shall be revised, as needed, to reflect significant changes in the operation that affect the overall nutrient budget.

503.23 Soil and Plant Tissue Testing

(A) Current soil test information shall be used in the development of all nutrient management plans. As a minimum, tests will include information for pH, phosphorus, and potassium. NRCS State Conservationists may require other tests.

(1) For the purposes of developing a new nutrient management plan, current soil tests are those that are no older than 1 year.

(2) For the purpose of reviewing and revising previously developed nutrient management plans, current soil tests are those that are:

(a) No older than five years.

(b) Compliant with other guidance that requires other types of soil tests or more frequent soil test intervals as determined by the NRCS State Conservationists.

(B) Soil Sampling

(1) In general, soil samples shall be taken in accordance with Land Grant University guidance or standard industry practice if accepted by the Land Grant University within the State.

(2) In situations where there are special production or environmental considerations, States may require other sampling techniques. For example:

(a) Sub-soil sampling for residual nitrate in irrigated crop production systems.

(b) Pre-sidedress Nitrogen Test (PSNT) and/or Pre-Plant Soil Nitrate test.

(c) Sampling of the surface layer (0–2 inches) for elevated soil phosphorus or soil acidity when there is permanent vegetation, non-inversion tillage, or when animal manure or other organic by-products are broadcast or surface applied.

(C) Soil test analysis shall be performed by laboratories that are accepted in one or more of the following programs:

(1) State Certified Programs.

(2) The North American Proficiency Testing Program (Soil Science Society of America).

(3) Other laboratories whose tests are accepted by the Land Grant University in the State in which the tests are used as the basis for nutrient application.

(D) NRCS State Conservationists may recommend the use of tissue analysis and other such tests when needed to insure acceptable nutrient management.

(E) The nutrient content of animal manure and other organic by-products shall be based on:

(1) Laboratory analysis of the material.

(2) Accepted book values recognized by NRCS in the absence of laboratory analysis.

503.24 Nutrient Application Rates

(A) Except for situations described in Sections 503.24 (C) and 503.25(A)(3), the actual rate of nutrient application of all plans shall be for a RMS level of treatment.

(B) Actual nutrient application rates for an RMS shall not exceed the rates recommended based on soil test or other analysis, except for the application of phosphorus and potassium associated with the use of animal manure and other organic by-products. When animal manure or other organic by-products are land applied, the following guidance applies:

(1) For phosphorus, one of the following options may be used to establish acceptable phosphorus application rates for an RMS:

(a) When soil specific phosphorus threshold (TH) data is available that identifies the soil phosphorus level at which soluble losses of phosphorus in runoff become significant, the phosphorus application may be based upon the following guidance: Soil Test P Level, Allowed P Application Rates; $< \frac{3}{4}TH$ Value, Nitrogen Based Application; $= > \frac{3}{4}TH < 1\frac{1}{2}TH$, Crop Removal; $= > 1\frac{1}{2}TH < 2TH$, $\frac{1}{2}$ Crop Removal; $= > 2TH$, No Application;

(b) When soil specific phosphorus threshold (TH) data is not available, the phosphorus application shall be based upon the following guidance: Soil Test P Level,

Allowed P Application Rates; Low, Nitrogen Based Application; Medium, Nitrogen Based Application; High, 1.5 times Crop Removal; Very High, Crop Removal; Excessive, No Application;

(2) No limit is placed on potassium application associated with manure or other organic by-products.

(C) The nutrient application rates described in progressive plans shall meet RMS requirements, except for the application of phosphorus. Initially, planned phosphorus application rates in progressive plans may be based on a nitrogen standard for the utilization of animal manure or other organic by-products.

503.25 Special Considerations

(A) When developing nutrient management plans that include the use of manure or other organic by-products:

(1) All nutrient management plans developed in accordance with Section 503.24(A) shall identify adequate land resources to enable eventual plan implementation based on phosphorus, even when initial implementation will be based on nitrogen, unless other provisions that do not involve land application are made for utilizing the manure. Such plans shall identify the year in which the producer may need access to these additional land resources to move to a phosphorus base for future implementation of the plan.

(2) The nutrient management plans shall include a field-by-field assessment of the potential risk for phosphorus to be associated with water quality impairment. This assessment may be accomplished using the Phosphorus Index or other recognized assessment tool.

When a phosphorus assessment is completed, the nutrient management plans shall describe:

(a) A record of the vulnerability ratings for each field.

(b) Information about other conservation practices and management activities that can reduce the potential for phosphorus movement from the field.

(3) Progressive plans developed with producers who do not have adequate land resources to develop and implement a plan based on phosphorus shall:

(a) Be developed on a "case-by-case" basis with individual producers.

(b) Include conservation practices and management activities designed to move the producer toward a plan that meets the requirements described in Section 503.24(A) within 10 years. Such plans shall include milestones (installation schedules) that identify actual movement toward an RMS during the progressive planning period.

(c) Be effective for a period not to exceed 10 years. The initial progressive plan shall be for a period not to exceed five years. A second five-year progressive plan may be developed if it is still impossible to meet the requirements of Section 503.24(A), but progress has been shown during the first five-year period.

(B) When nutrient management plans are developed and implemented in a way that results in expected increases in soil phosphorus levels, the plans shall include:

(1) Discussion about the potential for phosphorus accumulation in the soil and for such accumulation to contribute to water quality impairment, animal health, or crop production problems.

(2) Discussion of the time interval after which it may be desirable (or necessary) to convert to phosphorus based manure application rates for plan implementation.

(3) Discussion of the potential for soil phosphorus draw-down from the production and harvesting of crops.

(C) In areas with specially protected water bodies, plans shall be developed incorporating any special requirements that are applicable within these areas.

(D) Land application of sewage sludge.

(1) When sewage sludge is applied to agricultural land, the accumulations of potential pollutants from such sources (including: Arsenic, Cadmium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Selenium, and Zinc) in the soil shall be monitored in accordance with the US Code Reference 40 CFR Parts 403 and 503 or applicable State laws. States may determine if such provisions shall also be

required for the land application of animal manure and other organic by-products that contain any of these metals.

(2) Sewage sludge shall be analyzed prior to land application to determine its nutrient value.

(3) Acceptable application rates of sewage sludge shall be determined using guidelines in this policy, or applicable Federal, State or local regulations.

(E) When producing "fresh, edible crops for the produce market, like vegetables, root, or tuber crops" and using sewage sludge, animal manure, or other organic materials as a source of nutrients, applications shall be in accordance with provisions of applicable Federal, State, local laws or policies laws.

503.26 Record Keeping

(A) Records will be kept by the producer for nutrient management and waste utilization plans in accordance with this policy, the NRCS General Manual, and the FOTG. As a minimum, the following records shall be kept by fields or management units:

(1) Soil test results and recommended nutrient application rates.

(2) Quantities and sources of nutrients applied; and heavy metals if applicable.

(3) Specific dates nutrients were applied.

(4) Methods by which nutrients were applied (e.g., broadcast, incorporated after broadcast), injected, or fertigation).

(5) Crops planted and dates of planting.

(6) Harvest dates and yields of crops.

(7) Where applicable, results of water quality tests (including irrigation water), plant tissue, or other organic by-products tests.

(8) Annual reviews including the identification of the person completing the review and recommendations that resulted from the review.

(B) Records shall be retained for a period of five years, for a period equal to the implementation period of the plan if longer than five years, or for a period longer than five years if specified by other Federal or State agencies.

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EQIP
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NASIS
VegSpec
HEL/CRP
WINDSPEC
Plant Materials
Range Database
Plant Accessions
Agronomy Database
Range 417 Database
Conservation Planning
Forest-Soils Database
Water Quality Database
Habitat Suitability Index
WEPP/Rangeland Model
Wetland Soil-Plant Database
Wetland Evaluation Procedure
Range Practice Specifications
Range/Pasture Site Descriptions
Agronomy Practice Specifications
Environmental Evaluation Procedure
Threatened and Endangered Species
Habitat Management Evaluation Method
Range CMS Alternatives/plans/Conservation Effects
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***Providing the Plant Information Foundation to
NRCS Activities, Clients, & Cooperators***

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