

SECTION 1

1.2 KEY POINTS RELATED TO SWRM GRANTS

1. Changes involving nutrient management plans and cost-sharing

- Starting in 2018, the cost-share rate for a nutrient management plan (NMP) is \$10 per acre per year for four years (or \$40 per acre).
 - To obtain DATCP reimbursement, counties must document compliance with the 2015 NRCS 590 standard by submitting a NMP checklist [ARM-LWR-480 (Rev. 6/22/17)] completed by a qualified nutrient management (NM) planner.
 - Counties are responsible for reviewing NMP checklists submitted to DATCP to verify compliance with the NM requirements, and where appropriate, requesting documentation from the planner to substantiate a checklist response.
 - No reimbursements will be provided if counties submit out-of-date checklists as proof of compliance.
 - For NM cost-share contracts signed in 2017, counties may sign separate cost-share contracts with the landowners or operators to provide make-up payments, typically at the rate of up to \$3 per acre for four years or \$12 per acre, to cover the additional costs of meeting the new 590 standard. *A make-up payment is not available for cost-sharing provided before 2017.*
- The 2018 rule revision clarifies that a NMP, and subsequent annual submissions for local regulation, refers to NM plans developed according to s. ATCP 50.04(3). Based on this meaning, farmers may be required to comply with new and modified standards without receiving cost-sharing.
- Farmers receiving DATCP cost-sharing for manure storage must:
 - Design storage capacity based on the storage needs dictated by the farm's NMP.
 - Do the following during the 10 year maintenance period:
 - If animals are added, expand the storage capacity of the cost-shared structure to handle more manure, or revise their NMP and increase their land base to accommodate more manure.
 - Apply stored manure to non-frozen soils in compliance with a NMP under s. ATCP 50.04 (3).

2. Changes to cost-share standards other than the 590 NM standard

- The 2018 revision of ATCP 50 updated the technical standards used for many cost-shared practices but retained the 2014 versions of NRCS 313 and NRCS 635 standards.
 - Landowners may voluntarily agree to use newer standards, and their agreement to do so must be reflected in Section 3 of the cost-share contract where they can document updated technical standards that will apply to a specific project.

3. Changes in the DATCP reimbursement process

- For staffing grants,
 - Reimbursement forms must be completed electronically and signed by typing a name, and then emailed to DATCP at this address: datcpswrm@wisconsin.gov

- While DATCP encourages one reimbursement request for the staffing grant, if a county needs to receive two payments, the first reimbursement request should be received by November 1.
- Counties will receive no email reminders from DATCP to submit requests, and will need to initiate a request by downloading the right form, <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/StaffSupReqForm297.xlsx> and accurately completing the form.
- For cost-share grants, counties must:
 - Complete and sign new reimbursement forms electronically.
 - Reimburse landowners or grant recipients within 60 days if they receive a DATCP payment before a landowner or grant recipient is paid.

4. Prohibitions on using DATCP cost-sharing

- DATCP cost-sharing may not be used to bring a permittee into compliance with standards under Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit under chs. 281 and 283, Stats.
 - This precludes cost-sharing with CAFOS and other WPDES permit holders to achieve compliance, and would preclude cost-sharing related to trading, adaptive management, and multi-discharger variance that results in compliance with WPDES permits

5. Avoid reimbursement mistakes

- Don't scan and email a document that is electronically signed. Just email the signed document.
- Use the newest change order form that doesn't require signatures from a landowner or operator to consent to changes, and is electronically signed.
- If a cost-share contract does not include the correct unit of measurement and quantity for each cost-shared practice, update numbers on the reimbursement form to reflect the final quantity.
 - Refer to Section 2.2 of the SWRM manual, [Cost-Share Funding Source Table and NR151 Code Guidance](#) to identify the correct units for each practice.
- Use the most current NRCS construction coversheet to document that an engineered practice meets applicable technical standards for DATCP cost-sharing.
 - Persons with the appropriate level of NRCS job approval authority may now certify that a DATCP cost-share practice was properly installed.
 - Counties must ensure that their staff who complete coversheets have valid and appropriate engineering practitioner certifications.
 - Changes in DATCP rules mean that county staff may not have their conservation engineering certifications renewed if they fail to complete education requirements or fail to provide required information.