Soil and Water Conservation Standards

For farmers who grow agricultural crops

- Meet tolerable soil loss ("T") on cropped fields
- Follow a nutrient management plan designed to limit entry of nutrients into state waters; groundwater and surface water

For farmers who feed, raise or house livestock

- Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters
- Limit livestock access to state waters to avoid high concentrations of animals and maintain adequate or self-sustaining sod cover along waterways
- Follow a nutrient management plan for manure application

For farms with new or existing manure storage structures

- 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 technical standards for newly constructed or substantially altered structures

For farmers with land in a Water Quality Management Area
These areas are 300 feet from a stream, 1,000 feet from a lake or in areas susceptible to groundwater contamination.

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

Nutrient Management Plans

To meet the new nutrient management standards, farmers may hire an agronomist or prepare their own nutrient management plans if they complete a DATCP-approved training course or otherwise demonstrate that they are qualified. These plans must 1) rely on soil nutrient tests from a DATCP-certified laboratory and 2) comply with current NRCS Nutrient Management Standard 590.