

**Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Round 15
Questions and Answers**

Q. For those applicants that have indicated federal dollars as a match, were these dollars already under contract?

A. It is important to confirm that federal funds used as a match are under contract or are going to be under contract before the plan of work is submitted. If the proposal is awarded, proof of the match that was reported on the proposal budget will be required under the contract. The farmer's commitment letter will have to note his/her total match as reflected on the appropriate contract forms.

Q. The County Department of Health will not disclose the Source Water Assessment Reports for the county. The entire county is situated over a sole source aquifer. Will the program accept any other documentation for the purposes of assigning the SWAP additional points?

A. For this case only, attaching a map to the proposal(s) showing your county over an EPA designated sole source aquifer will be acceptable for the purpose of assigning the SWAP additional points.

Q. The District would like to submit a proposal to seek funding for farms to take an Illinois Soil Nitrogen Test (ISNT) on fields. At this point we need clarification whether this should be applied for planning activities (AEM Tier III) OR implementation (AEM Tier IV) grant.

A. The proposal you are describing would be considered an implementation (AEM Tier IV) project. All farms proposing implementation projects must have at least an AEM Tier 3A completed prior to the submission of the proposal.

Q. The District has a dairy farm that exports manure to a cash crop farm. The dairy farm is proposing to install an agricultural waste storage facility, Standard 313, on his farm and continue exporting the manure to the cash crop operation. How does the District account for the manure, which farm is required to have a CNMP?

A. It is required that The Screening Tool for Agricultural Waste Storage Facilities must be completed for the dairy farm proposing to implement the Agricultural Waste Storage Facility prior to the submission of the proposal. If the application is selected for funding, a CNMP that meets the requirements of NRCS Standard 312 must be certified for the dairy farm before payment can be issued for the completed BMP.

It is highly encouraged that the cash crop farm develops at the least a nutrient management plan, NRCS Standard 590, which addresses the utilization of the dairy manure and that the 590 plan is referenced in the dairy farm's CNMP. It is also encouraged that the two farms enter into an export/import agreement for the waste that covers the lifespan of the Agricultural Waste Storage Facility.