



Using Alternative or Experimental Practices in Your Ag. Water Quality Plan

The Agriculture Water Quality Authority approved of 59 best management practices and included those practices in the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan. This plan is being implemented through the development of individual water quality plans for agriculture and silviculture operations on 10 or more acres. The majority of these plans will contain some of the 59 best management practices (BMP). However, some landowners may be interested in using an alternative or experimental best management practice that is not a part of the state water quality plan. An agriculture operation can use an alternative BMP if it follows these steps:

- 1 The landowner must submit to the local Conservation District the alternative or experimental practice and documentation as to how the practice will be implemented.
- 2 The Conservation District and a technical agency of its choosing will determine whether or not the alternative or experimental practice is or should be as protective of water quality as the BMP's currently in the state plan. Technical agencies that could be involved include:
 - *Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet
 - *Division of Conservation
 - *Division of Forestry
 - *Division of Water
 - *Division of Waste Management
 - *Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife
 - *Kentucky Department of Agriculture
 - *Division of Pesticides
 - *Division of Animal Health
 - *Local Health Departments
 - *Kentucky Department for Public Health
 - *Milk Safety Branch
 - *Division of Environmental Health & Community Safety
 - *State Fire Marshall
 - *USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - *USDA Farm Service Agency
 - *University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service
 - *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - *Kentucky Geological Survey
- 3 The Conservation District sends a letter to the Agriculture Water Quality Authority stating that the alternative or experimental practice is just as protective of water quality and recommends the practice for registration.
- 4 Once the practice is registered with the Agriculture Water Quality Authority, the agriculture operation shall not be deemed in bad actor status if it is following the alternative or experimental practice and is not causing water pollution.
- 5 If the practice appears that it is not working, the Division of Water and the Authority may take steps to withdraw the registration. The Division of Water and the Authority will consult with the appropriate technical agency and will notify the landowner.
- 6 Successful practices can be added to the State Water Quality Plan at any time by following the modification process.

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