Conservation Plan:
A record of the client's decisions and supporting information, for treatment of a unit of land or water as a result of the planning process, that meets FOTG quality criteria for each natural resource (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) and takes into account economic and social considerations. The plan describes the schedule of operations and activities needed to solve identified natural resource problems, and take advantage of opportunities, at a resource management system level. The needs of the client, the resources, and federal, state, and local requirements will be met.

Resource Management System (RMS):
A combination of conservation practices and resource management, for the treatment of all identified resource concerns for soil, water, air, plants, and animals, that meets or exceeds the quality criteria in the FOTG for resource sustainability.

Progressive Planning:
The planning process is progressive when a client is ready, willing, and able to make and implement some, but not all of the decisions necessary to achieve an RMS level of management. The rate of progress in moving to an RMS level will depend on the client's desires and constraints.

Alternative Conservation System (ACS):
A conservation system for treating sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land that is documented in the FOTG and which achieves a substantial reduction in soil loss rates. This term applies only to conservation plans and conservation systems developed to carry out the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

Basic Conservation System (BCS):
An erosion control system for treating sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land. A BCS may be a component of a Resource Management System (RMS). The BCS must achieve soil loss tolerance requirements for the principal soil it is designed to protect and be documented in the FOTG. This term applies only to conservation plans and conservation systems developed to carry out the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

CNMP is defined as: A comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) is a conservation plan for an animal feeding operation (AFO) that:

(1) Must include the following two components:
    (i) The production area, including the animal confinement, feed, and other raw materials storage areas, animal mortality facilities, and the manure handling containment or storage areas.
    (ii) The land treatment area, including any land under control of the AFO owner or operator, whether it is owned, rented, or leased, and to which manure or process wastewater is, or might be, applied for crop, hay, pasture production, or other uses.
(2) Meets Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) quality criteria for water quality (nutrients, organics, and sediments in surface and groundwater) and soil erosion (sheet and rill, wind, ephemeral gully, classic gully, and irrigation induced natural resource concerns on the production area and land treatment area).
(3) Mitigates, if feasible, any excessive air emissions and/or negative impacts to air quality resource concerns that may result from practices identified in the CNMP or from existing on-farm areas/activities.
(4) Complies with Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements.
(5) Satisfies the owner/operator's production objectives.