

Pa. State Council of Farm Organization Meeting
Educational Program Notes
June 7, 2010

Presentation #1

Pennsylvania's Nutrient (Manure) Management Programs

Doug Goodlander, Pa. State Conservation Commission

Quick facts on manure in Pennsylvania:

- Pa. produces 26 million tons of manure a year
- Pa. has over 4 million acres of harvested cropland
- 25% of farms in Pa. utilize manure for at least part of their soil fertility program

Pa.'s overall manure management regulatory program structure:

- Three tier regulatory process for nutrient mgmt. planning:
 - 1) Small, low animal density farm – plans developed and kept on site, no review
 - 2) High animal density farm – plans developed by certified specialists and requires approval by conservation district or SCC
 - 3) Large animal farm – DEP permit required to operate
- Targets limited agency staff to larger (CAFO) and higher density (CAO) animal farms
- Approximately ½ of manure produced in Pa. falls under categories 2 and 3 above

What is required of small, low animal density farms (number “1” above):

- Essentially all farms in Pa. need a soil erosion control plan (no review or approval)
- All animal farms or farms that use animal manure must also have a manure mgmt. plan
 - ✓ Certified planner not required, farmer can develop their own plan
 - ✓ Plan kept on site, no review or approval required
- Traditionally complaint driven but this is changing as agencies are beginning to “knock on doors” to see if farmers have these plans

What is required of high animal density farms, referred to as CAOs (number “2” above):

- High density is a farm with greater than 2,000 lbs. animal weight per acre of cropland
- These farms must have an approved nutrient mgmt plan using standard format
 - ✓ Plan must be developed by certified planner
 - ✓ Plan submitted to the conservation district (or SCC) for review and approval
 - ✓ Annual farm inspections performed to ensure plan implementation
 - ✓ Plan addresses nutrient balancing, winter restrictions, application setbacks, etc.

What is required of larger animal farms, referred to CAFOs (number “3” above):

- Larger animal farms are defined as having:
 - ✓ More than 1,000,000 lbs. of animals (1,000 Animal Equivalent Units) on the farm, or
 - ✓ More than 300,000 lbs. (300 Animal Equivalent Units) and the farm is a CAO, or

- ✓ Have more than a defined number of animals such as 700 dairy cows, or 2,500 market hogs, or 82,000 layers, or 125,000 broilers, etc.
- These farms must have an approved nutrient mgmt plan using standard format
 - ✓ Plan must be developed by certified planner
 - ✓ Plan submitted to the conservation district (or SCC) for review and approval
 - ✓ Annual farm inspections performed to ensure compliance
 - ✓ Plan addresses nutrient balancing, winter restrictions, application setbacks, etc.
- These farms must obtain an NPDES CAFO permit from DEP in order to operate

Presentation #2

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

John Hines, Deputy Secretary

In the second part of the presentation, Pennsylvania DEP Deputy Secretary, John Hines, spoke on seven chapters of the DEP permitting system that have the most affect on agriculture and farming.

The seven chapters are 92A, 93, 95, 96, 102, 105, and 302.

Information on each of these chapters can be found on the DEP website,
<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us>