



**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

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## Nutrient Management Commission's annual report released

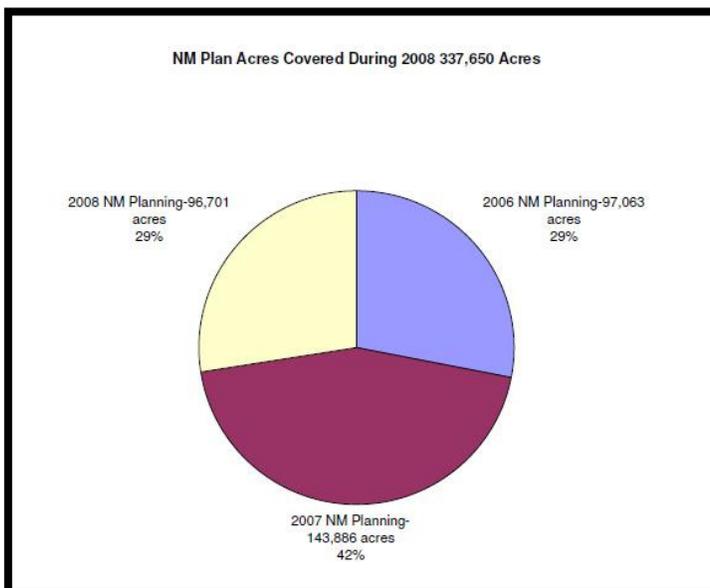
On April 1, the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission released its Annual Report that details the 2008 accomplishments of the Delaware Nutrient Management Program. According to the Report, "2008 was an important year for nutrient management. It was the second year for full implementation of the Law and also turned out to be the year of scrutiny. The accountability demonstrated last year was significant and must continue in order for agriculture and a growing population to co-exist. This accountability is the result of many voluntary and regulatory programs throughout the state, a combination that works well in Delaware."

In keeping with the Nutrient Management Law, all farmers and other nutrient handlers must develop and implement phosphorus limited nutrient management plans, maintain nutrient handling records, maintain nutrient certification, and submit an annual report.

Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, said, "This report is a testament to the on-going environmental stewardship of Delaware's farmers as they continue to employ best management practices to improve our water quality. I am proud of each and every one of them and thank them for their commitment."

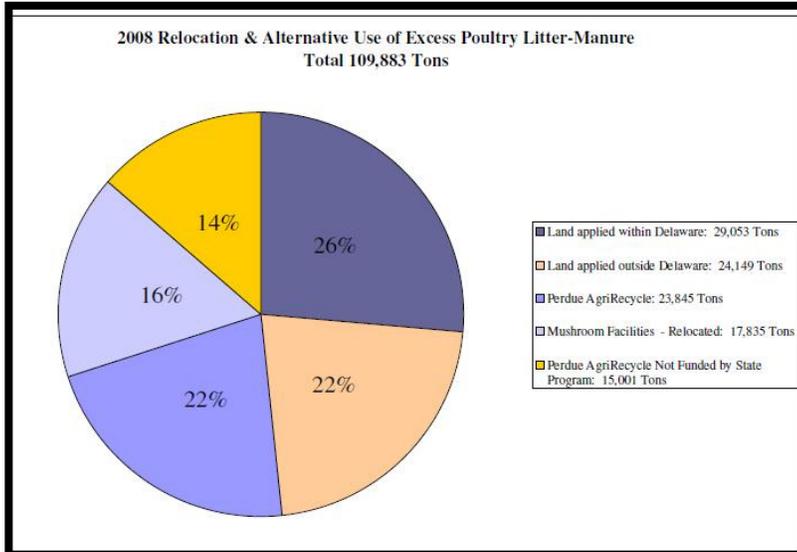
Among the nationally recognized Program's many accomplishments were the following:

**Continuing Education and Certification:** In 2008, ninety-five different continuing education opportunities were provided with 2,033 attendees receiving credit.



**Nutrient Management Planning:** Delaware farmers applied for and were approved for a total of 85,576 acres of nutrient management planning. The total acreage covered by nutrient management planning reimbursement during 2008, including those farms that were approved during 2006 and 2007, was 297,211 acres. The combined total of both public and private nutrient management planning was 337,650 acres.

**Compliance Audits:** Program staff audited nutrient management compliance on 21 different farms. Four businesses that participated in relocation of nutrient management plan reimbursement were audited for recordkeeping and generally accepted business practices.



**Nutrient Management Relocation:** During the year, 109,883 tons of excess poultry litter-manure were relocated, resulting in an eight-year total of nearly 560,000 tons.

**CAFO Permits:** The Delaware Nutrient Management Program continues to administer national pollution permit regulations for Delaware’s animal feeding operation. The 1972 Clean Water Act and revised Federal regulations require permits for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). In 2008, 16 animal feeding operations were managed under CAFO permits.

Delaware’s Nutrient Management Law was passed in 1999 as a water quality measure to reduce nutrient runoff from agriculture and other sources of manure and commercial based fertilizers. Nutrient Management Commission Chairman, Bill Vanderwende said, “We have had a very successful program implementation since 1999. This success is due to the on-going cooperation of farmers, program staff, nutrient consultants, and other agribusinesses.”

Bill Rohrer, Nutrient Management Program Administrator, said, “Economically, times are tough right now, but rest assured, the Program staff at DDA is committed to continuing to provide the same high level of accountability and service to the program and its participants.”

A complete copy of the report is available on the web at: [http://www.dda.delaware.gov/nutrients/forms/2008/NM\\_2008%20Annual%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf](http://www.dda.delaware.gov/nutrients/forms/2008/NM_2008%20Annual%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf) , or by calling 302.698.4500.

Electronic copies of the graphics and picture are available: [anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us](mailto:anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us) .

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