Delaware

Nutrient Management Notes

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Site-Specific Items for CAFO Nutrient Management Plans

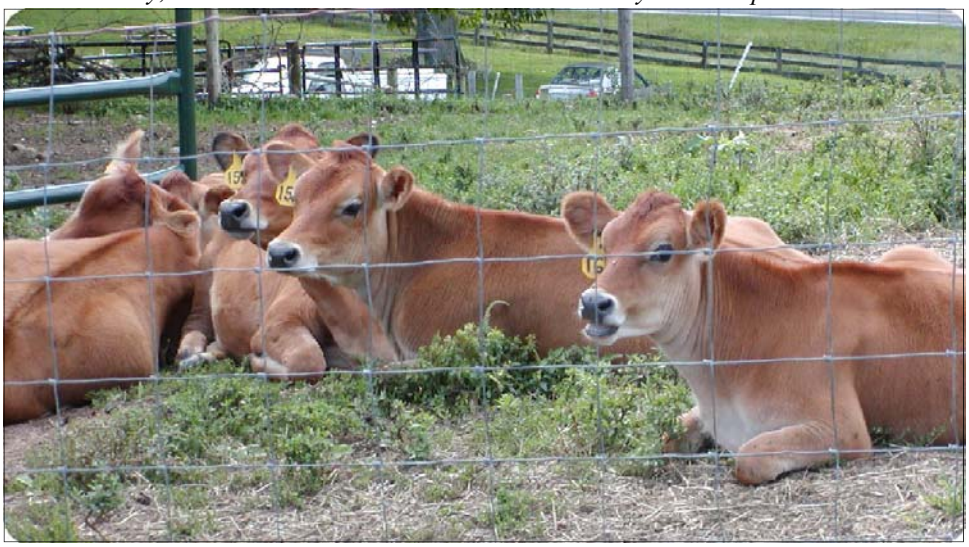
This question and answer fact sheet is provided by the Delaware Nutrient Management Program. It is intended to assist Delaware certified Nutrient Consultants and farmers in drafting the site-specific conditions for a CAFO Nutrient Management Plan.

Q: What is an AFO?

A. AFO is an acronym for Animal Feeding Operation. Raising animals for a period of at least 45 days per year in a confined space makes a farm an AFO. AFO's can be categorized by size, based on the number of animals that are present. However, the size of an AFO is no longer used to determine whether a farm is also a permitted Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO).

Q: How Does an AFO Become Defined as a CAFO?

A. Currently, an AFO where a discharge has occurred, or may occur, is considered to be a CAFO that needs a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Additionally, an AFO can volunteer to become covered by a CAFO permit.



Q: What is the Definition of a Discharge?

A. In the case of a CAFO, a discharge would be the introduction of a pollutant (such as manure or water containing manure) from the animal production or manure application area into the waters of the State. A discharge could occur if rainfall or other water comes into contact with the animals or their manure; if animal mortalities are buried; or where a liquid manure storage system overflows. Within the application area, a discharge may be identified if manure is <u>not</u> applied according to a nutrient management plan. Within the production area (confinement, storage and operating area), it is important to protect manure and animals from runoff.

The University of Delaware has a new web address

Http://ag.udel.edu/extension/NutriManage/

Contents:

Mark Your Calendar Upcoming Full Commission Meetings

Meetings begin 7:00 pm

2007

April 10

May 8

June 12

July 10

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

December 11

Q: Why Are There Site-Specific Nutrient Management Plan Requirements for a CAFO?

A. A Nutrient Management plan for a CAFO is different from that of a non-CAFO. Once classified or volunteered as a CAFO, a farm is required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (NPDES). The Delaware Nutrient Management Law (3 Del. C §2200 et. al), the State's CAFO Regulations (Section 9, Subsection 4F, part 2) and Environmental Protection Agency Regulations (40 CFR Subchapter 412.2) state that any CAFO NPDES Permit must reflect site-specific requirements in order to ensure no excess nutrients are released into the waters of the State.

Q: How do the Site-Specific Requirements Relate to the More General Requirements Included in the Facility's Nutrient Management Plan?

A. The site-specific requirements are intended to supplement the overall Nutrient Management Plan for a CAFO. They should address conditions unique to the site in order to prevent a discharge and identify components required by Federal regulation.

Q: What Minimum Site-Specific Requirements Need to be Addressed in the Nutrient Management Plan for a CAFO?

A. There are six site-specific requirements that should be addressed in your Nutrient Management Plan. These are listed below, along with a brief description of those elements that need to be spelled out in the plan:

- ***Adequate Manure Storage:*** *Your Nutrient Management Plan should include Best Management Practices (BMPs) to ensure your facility has adequate manure storage capacity. Adequate storage should be defined for the purpose of preventing the application of manure at the wrong time of year. If the facility stores liquid manure, a schedule for the removal of liquids and sediments from the storage area must be included in the Plan. The Plan also needs to specify there be at least one foot of freeboard for liquid systems in preparation for a rain event. Emergency measures in the event of a spill or overflow must also be addressed. Be sure that the contact information for all concerned regulatory agencies is listed in this section;*

- ***Mortality Management:*** *The Plan should outline methods for the disposal of both daily and catastrophic mortalities. Such disposal methods should be planned so there will be no contamination of surface or ground water. A list of BMPs relating to the handling of both types of mortalities should also be included in this portion of the Plan;*
- ***Clean Water Management:*** *The Plan should indicate the need for, and methods that will be used, to divert clean water (such as rainfall) away from those portions of the production area where that clean water could come into contact with animals or their manure. Factors such as roof runoff control and direct contact between animals and the waters of the State (streams) should be spelled out in this portion of the Plan.*
- ***Proper Chemical Handling:*** *The Plan should identify practices to prevent chemicals from being disposed in manure, litter or process wastewater. Examples of such chemicals are pesticides, petroleum products, and other toxic chemicals:*
- ***Overall Manure Balance Budget:*** *The Nutrient Management Plan should include an overall manure balance budget that identifies: (1) the estimated amount of manure that the facility will generate (2) the intended demand for the manure, and (3) any exportation of manure;*
- ***Nutrient Application Setbacks:*** *The Plan should outline the distance between any cropland where manure, litter or process wastewater is applied, and any down slope surface waters. If there is no vegetated buffer strip, this setback distance is 100 feet. If a vegetated buffer strip is present, the setback is reduced to 35 feet. In addition, alternate setback distances may be substituted. See the next section for details regarding these alternative setbacks.*

Alternative Nutrient Application Setbacks are Listed Below:

- *For surface waters other than drainage ditches, a 50-foot application setback may be used as long as the manure, litter or process wastewater is incorporated into the soil within 48 hours **OR** a cover crop is planted following the harvest of the crop that received the manure;*
- *For surface waters other than drainage ditches, a 15-foot application setback may be used if the manure, litter or process wastewater is incorporated into the soil within 48 hours **AND** a cover crop is planted following the harvest of the crop that received the manure;*
- *For drainage ditches, a 20-foot application setback may be used as long as the manure, litter or process wastewater is incorporated into the soil within 48 hours **OR** a cover crop is planted;*
- *For drainage ditches, a 10-foot application setback may be used as long as the manure, litter or process wastewater is incorporated into the soil within 48 hours **AND** a cover crop is planted following the harvest of the crop that received the manure;*
- *Any alternative practice approved by the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission. Such practices must be demonstrated to achieve similar or better pollution control than the 100-foot application setback or the 35-foot vegetated buffer.*

Q: How Often Should the Site-Specific Section of a CAFO's Nutrient Management Plan be Updated?

A. Both the Nutrient Management Plan and the site-specific requirements should be updated at a minimum of every three years, or if there are significant alterations to the operations of the CAFO. A 25% or greater increase in the number of animals raised or cultivated in crops would constitute such a significant alteration.

Session Schedule:

THE NEXT ROUND OF SESSIONS WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR EARLY-SUMMER OR LATE-FALL

These sessions are for individuals that need to be certified through the Delaware Nutrient Management Program. You will NOT be able to receive continuing education credits by attending these sessions.

All sessions are held at Kent County Extension Office Paradee Center, Dover Route 113 South

To sign up please call Carrie Sterling University of Delaware (302) 856-2585, ext. 574.

How to get involved and voice your opinion:

Meet and talk to commission members.

Attend commission meetings

Contact the Delaware Nutrient Management Program for dates and locations.

Nutrient Management Program

(302) 698-4500
or
1-800-282-8685

Bill Rohrer
Program Administrator
william.rohrer@state.de.us

Steve Hollenbeck
Environmental Coordinator
steven.hollenbeck@state.de.us

Bob Coleman
Nutrient Mgmt. Coordinator
robert.coleman@state.de.us

Pat Diehl
Administrative Specialist II
patricia.diehl@state.de.us

Judy Baines
Office Assistant
judy.baines@state.de.us

University of Delaware

Dr. Dave Hansen
(302) 856-7303
djhansen@udel.edu

Dr. Greg Binford
(302) 831-2146
binfordg@udel.edu

County Extension Offices

Carl Davis-New Castle
(302) 831-2506, Ext. 3

Gordon Johnson-Kent
(302) 741-2600 Ext. 3

Corey Whaling-Sussex
(302) 856-3990 Ext.3

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Delaware Nutrient Management Commission

Name-Appointment	Contact Info.	Representation	Title
William Vanderwende-Senate	(302) 349-4423	Sussex County Dairy Producer, DNMC Chairman	
Mark Adkins-Governor	(302) 732-3007	Sussex County Swine Producer	
David Baker-Senate	(302) 378-3750	New Castle County Grain Industry, Personnel Subcommittee, DNMC Vice Chairman	
Robert Baldwin-Governor	(302) 739-4921	Director, Division of Soil & Water Conservation, DNREC	
Jack Manchester-Governor	(302) 994-5544	New Castle County Citizens	
Kenneth Blessing, Jr.-Senate	(302) 422-5746	Kent County Vegetable Farmer	
Tony Keen Senate	(302) 684-3196	Nutrient Consultant, Technology Subcommittee Chairman	
Connie Larimore-House of Representative	(302) 398-8304	Kent County Poultry Producer, Budget Subcommittee Chairman	
Ed Lewandowski-House of Representatives	(302) 645-7325	Environmental Advocacy Group, Rules & Regulations Subcommittee Chairman	
Bud O'Neill-Governor	(302) 363-1353	Golf Course/Lawn Care	
Al Johnson, Jr.-House of Representatives	(302) 335-5454	Commercial Applicator	
Carl Solberg-Senate	(302) 492-1225	Environmental Advocacy Group, Program & Education Subcommittee Chairman	
Richard Sterling-Governor	(302) 653-7060	Commercial Nursery Industry	
Charles West II-House of Representatives	(302) 238-0137	Sussex County Poultry Producer	
Michael T. Scuse (Ex-Officio)	(302) 698-4500	Secretary, Department of Agriculture	
John A. Hughes (Ex-Officio)	(302) 739-9903	Secretary, DNREC	
Gerald Llewellyn (Ex-Officio)	(302) 744-4540	Department of Health and Social Services	
William Rohrer, Jr. (Ex-Officio) DNMC	(302) 698-4500	Nutrient Management Program Administrator	

Delaware Nutrient Management Program
2320 S. DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19901