

DELAWARE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT NOTES

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YEAR END REVIEW

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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

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or

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University Nutrient Specialists

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission tackled a lot of tough challenges in 2000, its first full year of existence. Its 19 volunteer members developed regulations, approved alternative-use projects, initiated cost-sharing programs and provided certification classes, among other accomplishments outlined in this newsletter.

The commission is on track in its efforts to meet the nutrient management deadlines as set forth in the legislation established in 1999.

In 2000, the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission earned attention for its efforts at two national environmental conferences where its unique approach to regulating nonpoint-source pollution was recognized. Delaware's program has become an intriguing reference for other states that are trying to regulate nutrient generation, storage, handling, and application activities.

The commission is continuing its efforts to improve the quality of Delaware's waters, while nurturing its valuable agricultural industries. You'll find details of some of those ongoing efforts in the next few pages.

COST-SHARING PROGRAMS

Cost-sharing programs are now available to assist in the relocation of excess manure to areas in need of nutrients in the state or off the Delmarva Peninsula. Additional funds will share the cost in developing a nutrient management plan developed by a private nutrient consultant. The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission, which will evaluate early results in an effort to improve the programs, believes programs such as these will demonstrate that agricultural industries, as well as golf course and lawn care businesses, are working to improve water quality.

To apply for cost-sharing funds, or for more information, call the Nutrient Management Program at 698-4500, or your local conservation district at the following numbers; Sussex: 856-7215 (ext. 3); Kent: 697-2600 (ext. 3); New Castle: 832-3100 or 834-3560 (ext. 3).

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RELOCATION PROGRAM

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission offers a Nutrient Relocation Program that helps with the transportation cost of moving manure to alternative-use projects or to land in need of nutrients. Those shipping manure have to demonstrate they have an excess, and those receiving it have to show they need it. Transportation rates up to \$20 per ton are available — for details contact the Nutrient Management Program at 698-4500. Nearly 5,000 tons of poultry litter manure have been relocated (or are approved to be relocated) by this program.



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Nutrient handlers who want to meet the 2003 planning deadline early, can apply for cost-sharing funds of up to \$5 per acre for three years of nutrient management planning by a private certified nutrient consultant. Cost-sharing funds will also be available for soil and manure analysis — up to \$7.50 per soil sample and \$25 per manure sample. More than 80,000 acres of Delaware cropland have been approved for nutrient management planning cost-sharing funds. Over 15 percent of Delaware farms will be several years early in meeting the state's 2003 regulatory mandate.



CRITICAL AREAS IDENTIFIED

Priorities for cost-sharing programs, and nutrient management programs in general, will be based on a "critical areas" list developed by the commission's Technology Subcommittee. These critical areas encompass about 70 percent of Sussex County, including the Inland Bays, Nanticoke, and Pocomoke watersheds. Based on such factors as water quality and animal populations, 13 of the state's 41 watersheds were placed on the Nutrient Management critical areas list.



ALTERNATIVE USE PROJECTS

The commission supports any effort to relocate excess manure from impaired watersheds to alternative use projects and intends to assist in creating a strong market for manure. In order to encourage the development of alternative uses, the commission approved several projects that processed raw manure into economical and environmentally sound products.

The commission continues to address methods to ensure that harmful pathogens do not remain in processed manure. These methods include windrow composting, in-vessel composting, alkaline stabilization composting, cubing, and the pelletizing of poultry and livestock manure.



WINDROW COMPOST

CERTIFICATION UPDATE

The commission offered certification classes for consultants who will be developing nutrient management plans. The following companies and organizations have completed the required classes for certification as nutrient management consultants.

- Agro Distributions
- Brubaker Consulting Group
- Crop Production Services
- Earth Technologies
- Eastern Precision Services
- Keen Consulting
- Kent County Conservation District
- McConnell Agronomics
- Milford Fertilizer Company
- New Castle Conservation District
- Royster Clark
- Soil Service
- Southern States
- Sussex County Conservation District
- UAP Northeast
- University of Delaware
- USDA NRCS
- Wenger Feeds, Inc.

Certification classes are scheduled in January and February for nutrient generators who need to be certified no later than 2004. (See the list below for dates and locations.) Any person who generates nutrients (manure), applies nutrients, or develops a nutrient management plan is required to become certified by the Nutrient Management Program.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION CLASSES SCHEDULED

Signup is underway for **Session I** of Delaware Nutrient Management Program certification credits for farmers that produce organic nutrients or applies nutrients to land he or she owns, leases, or otherwise controls. Farmers who don't use manure produced on their farms (nutrient generators) and farmers who use manure or commercial fertilizer on their farm operations (private nutrient applicators) need to complete this session for credit toward certification required by law. **Session I** will provide 3 credits towards a total of 6 needed by nutrient generators and towards a total of 9 needed for private nutrient applicators. There will be no charge for these classes.

Session I is a general session. Due to limited seating, early signup is encouraged. To register, contact Mabel Hough at the Sussex County Extension office (856-7303). **Session I** is not limited to Sussex County farmers and future classes will be provided throughout the state. After completion of **Session I**, future sessions will be scheduled for certification completion.

CERTIFICATION SCHEDULE

January 26, 2001	9 am to noon	University of Del. Ed. Center, Georgetown
January 29, 2001	6 to 9 pm	University of Del. Ed. Center, Georgetown
January 30, 2001	9 am to noon	University of Del. Ed. Center, Georgetown
February 1, 2001	6 to 9 pm	Call (302) 697-4000 for Kent County Location
February 6, 2001	6 to 9 pm	Gumboro Fire Hall
February 8, 2001	9 am to noon	Greenwood VFW
February 8, 2001	6 to 9 pm	New Castle County Extension Office, Newark
February 14, 2001	6 to 9 pm	Ellendale Fire Hall

REGULATION DEVELOPMENT

With the help of participants at public workshops, the commission developed regulations regarding certification, compliance and enforcement. These regulations outline certification requirements for nutrient managers, as well as procedures for enforcing nutrient standards and handling complaints.

At numerous workshops held throughout the state in July and August, the commission provided participants with a walk-through poster session followed by a formal presentation that explained the nutrient management program's objectives and how the program will affect nutrient producers. The commission incorporated comments from the workshops into the draft regulations, and after further review, formally adopted them. The regulations went into effect on Jan. 10, 2001.

PERMITS FOR LARGE ANIMAL-FEEDING OPERATIONS

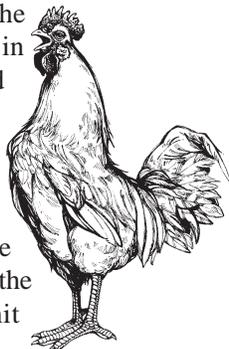
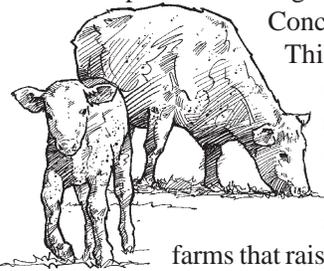
Because of an agreement reached last year between several state agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission will be authorized to issue permits for large livestock operations, formally called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.

This authority will be granted after the commission develops regulations for such large operations and the public reviews them.

Permits will be required for large animal feeding operations (such as farms that raise more than 100,000 broilers at a time), but the commission and Secretary of Agriculture will retain the authority to require permits for smaller operations as well.

The EPA in August released some elements of its proposed regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. In response, the commission alerted the EPA about the detrimental effects that a "one-size-fits-all" federal program could have on Delaware. The commission asserted its belief that Delaware is developing a program that will produce equal or greater water-quality results than the proposed federal program.

To ensure the EPA was aware of the commission's concerns, it met in November with Brad Campbell, Region III Administrator, and in December with Michael McCabe, Deputy Administrator of EPA Headquarters. These officials said the EPA's main concern is that regulations result in improved water quality, so federal rules should have little effect on Delaware as long as its results are equivalent to or greater than EPA's intended results. The commission will continue to develop its permit programs for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. The Nutrient Management Commission is reviewing the proposed federal regulations and will submit official comments to the EPA.



TECHNICAL UPDATE

PHOSPHORUS SITE INDEX

The University of Delaware continues its research into the Phosphorus Site Index, a method to determine "hot spots" where there is a higher potential that phosphorus will enter the surface water or ground water. The index combines two major factors:

- 1) The actual phosphorus level in the soil.
- 2) The probability that the phosphorus will leave the site and enter a waterway based on erosion, distance from the water table, leaching, subsurface drainage, buffers between fields, and other factors that increase the flow of phosphorus into the water.

Of nearly 800 soil samples studied by a UD researcher, only 25 percent had a high probability of releasing the nutrient into waterways.

GOLF COURSE



For the past year, nutrient management standards were focused on traditional farms because they would feel the greatest effects of new regulations. The commission is now developing standards for other nutrient producers, such as golf courses.

Issues under discussion include nutrient management plans for golf courses and Best Management Practices that can reduce nutrients in waterways.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)

Best Management Practices are actions that can help reduce pollution. They include actions as Pre-sidedress Soil Nitrate Test (PSNT), cover crops, buffer strips, erosion control, and proper dead animal disposal.

The commission is developing a Best Management Practices source book, which will provide nutrient handlers a list of recommended practices. These practices must be part of a nutrient management plan, but they may not be mandatory practices in all cases.

POULTRY COMPANY AGREEMENT



The Delaware Nutrient Management commission has formally signed an agreement with poultry companies, the state Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to cooperatively reduce nutrient inputs within the state's watersheds.

This commitment was formally stated in a Memorandum of Understanding that was introduced by the poultry industry and modified by the signatories along with state environmental advocacy group members. The agreement requires that results of the cooperative effort be reported to the Nutrient Management Commission every July.

The agreement represents a commitment from poultry companies to become more progressive in finding alternative uses for poultry litter and options for excess manure, developing feed formulations, and in funding research and education.

DELAWARE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

NAME	APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY	CONTACT NUMBER	AFFILIATION	TITLE
William Vandervende	Senate	(302) 349-4423	Sussex County Dairy Producer	Chairman, Commission
David Baker	Senate	(302) 378-3750	New Castle County Grain Industry	Chairman, Personnel Subcommittee; DNMC Vice Chairman
Edwin Brown, II	Governor	(302) 227-2053	Golf Course/Lawn Care Industry	
Stephen Corazza	House of Representatives	(302) 653-3583	New Castle County Poultry Producer	Chairman, Government Interaction Subcommittee
Carlton Fifer	Senate	(302) 697-2141	Kent County Veg. Industry	
Jeremy Homer	Governor	(302) 678-3262	Kent County Public Citizen	Chairman, Rules & Regulations Subcommittee
John Hughes	Secretary of DNREC	(302) 739-4411	Director, Division of Soil & Water Conservation DNREC	
David Jones	House of Representatives	(302) 422-8017	Environmental Advocacy Group	
Tony Keen	Senate	(302) 684-3196	Nutrient Consultant	Chairman, Technology Subcommittee
Connie Larimore	House of Representatives	(302) 398-8304	Kent County Poultry Producer	
Dale Ockels	Governor	(302) 684-0456	Sussex County Swine Producer	Chairman, Compliance & Enforcement Subcommittee
Brian Schilling	House of Representatives	(302) 934-7684	Commercial Applicator	Chairman, Industry Relations
Carl Solberg	Senate	(302) 492-1225	Environmental Advocacy Group	Chairman, Program & Education Subcommittee
Richard Sterling	Governor	(302) 653-7060	Commercial Nursery Industry	
Charles West, II	House of Representatives	(302) 238-0137	Sussex County Poultry Producer	Chairman, Budget Subcommittee
John F. Tarburton	(Ex-Officio)	(302) 698-4500	Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture	
Nicholas A. DiPasquale	(Ex-Officio)	(302) 739-4403	Secretary, Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control	
Gregg Sylvester	(Ex-Officio)	(302) 577-4357	Secretary, Dept. of Health and Social Services	
William Rohrer, Jr.	(Ex-Officio) DNMC	(302) 698-4500	Nutrient Mgmt. Program Administrator	



DELAWARE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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