



JEFFERSON COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future*

## *Agriculture Newsletter* *Winter - 2017*



*In this Edition:*

### **Free Farm Plan Writing Workshop**

**What Type of Plan Do I Need to  
Address Manure on My Farm?**

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual NW PA  
Grazing Conference**

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Western PA  
No-till & Soil Health Crops Day**

**2017 Western PA  
Crops Field Day**

**REAP Still Available**

**2017 SW PA Soil Health & No  
Till Conference**

**Bird Seed for Sale**

### **Free Farm Plan Writing Workshop**

**Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**At the Jefferson Conservation District**  
Located ¼ mi. North of I-80, Exit 81 (Hazen)  
on Route 28 in front of the Jefferson County  
Fairgrounds

State regulations require farmers to have written plans that address soil & manure management. This workshop will provide you with a better understanding of the regulations, and show you how to complete a Manure Management Plan and an Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan for your farm. Financial assistance opportunities will also be discussed for projects and/or improvements you'd like to make on your farm.



Refreshments provided  
Free soil test kits will be available  
**To register, please contact the District  
by February 3<sup>rd</sup> at (814) 849 – 7463**

*Financial support for this project is provided by the  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
through the Clean Water Fund.*





## What Type of Plan Do I Need?

The type of plan you need to address manure on your farm depends on how many animals you have, and how many acres are available to apply that manure that are under your management control. Follow the guidelines below to help you determine whether you need a Nutrient Management Plan or a Manure Management Plan for your operation.

### **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (NMP)**

NMPs are required for Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). They need to be written by a certified Nutrient Management Specialist.

### **What is a CAO?**

A CAO is a farm with more than 2.0 Animal Equivalent Units (AEUs) per acre suitable for the application of manure<sup>1</sup> and at least 8 AEUs<sup>2</sup>. An animal density calculation is used to determine if your operation falls under this category.

<sup>1</sup>Suitable acres for manure application include fields in a crop, hay or pasture that are under your management control.

<sup>2</sup>An AEU is 1,000 lbs. of animal weight on an annualized basis.

CAOs are regulated by the PA State Conservation Commission under PA's Nutrient Management Act (Act 38).

### **Examples of CAOs:**

- A veal operation with 200 calves on the farm for 300 days of the year with 20 acres of pasture
- A horse operation with 10 horses on 5 acres of pasture
- A beef finishing operation with 100 cattle on 20 acres of pasture for 210 days of the year

### **What is a CAFO?**

A CAFO is a farm that meets any of the following criteria: 1) A farm having more than 1,000,000 lbs. of combined animal weight regardless of acreage available for manure, 2) A farm having more than 300,000 lbs. of animal weight, and is a CAO, 3) A farm that meets or exceeds any of the following thresholds<sup>1</sup>:

- ✓ 700 mature dairy cows
- ✓ 1,000 beef cattle
- ✓ 2,500 swine (55 lbs. or more)
- ✓ 10,000 sheep or lambs

<sup>1</sup>See factsheet: "Is my Operation a CAFO?" for more detail in CAFO determinations, available at the District office.

CAFOs are regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection, and require a CAFO permit.

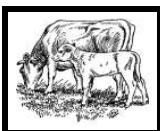
### **MANURE MANAGEMENT PLAN (MMP)**

MMPs are required of all operations that have animals and/or land apply manure that are not a CAO or CAFO. MMPs can be written by the farmer using the standards in the Manure Management Manual.

Note: Some operations that are not CAOs or CAFOs choose to have a Nutrient Management Plan rather than a Manure Management Plan. A NMP provides a more detailed assessment of their farm, and can allow for more flexibility in how much manure can be applied to the fields.

If you are not sure if you are a CAO or CAFO, contact the Conservation District to help you determine what category you fall under.

The Conservation District develops Manure Management Plans and Nutrient Management Plans free of charge for non CAOs/CAFOs whose home farm is in Jefferson County.



## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual NW PA Grazing Conference

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual NW PA Grazing Conference, “Celebrating Milestones”, will be held from 8:15am – 4:00pm on **Thursday, March 16, 2017** at a new location, the Trinity Point Church of God in Clarion, PA.

This year’s keynote speaker is Jim Gerrish of American GrazingLands Services, LLC. Other guest speakers include Aaron & Melissa Miller of Miller Livestock Co., Inc., Jay Fuhrer of NRCS, and former Chief of NRCS, David White. Topics of discussion will include the economics of a successful grass-fed beef operation, responsible management of pasture, and the economic and soil health benefits of integrating livestock into cropping systems.

Cost is \$40.00 to attend (payable to Headwaters RC&D Council) and includes a continental breakfast and a hot buffet lunch.

**To register by the March 10<sup>th</sup> deadline, contact Headwaters RC&D Council at (814) 503 – 8653 or visit their website, [www.headwaterspa.org](http://www.headwaterspa.org).**

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Western PA No-Till & Soil Health Crops Day

Thursday, March 2, 2017  
9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
*at*  
Park Inn by Radisson Hotel  
3377 New Castle Road  
West Middlesex, PA 16159

This event is hosted by the Penn State Extension. Topics of discussion include: Soybean Management Highlights, Integrated Weed Management & Resistant Weeds, General Fertility Update & Late Season Nitrogen Merits, More Pasture and Fewer Inputs, Potassium Behavior and Management, Perennial Weed Management, and How Do Pest Management Tactics Influence Soil Health.

Cost is \$15.00 if you register by Feb. 23, 2017, or \$20.00 at the door. Call 814-333-7460 or visit <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops> to register.



## 2017 Crops Day Western PA

Thursday, February 23, 2017  
9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
*at*  
The Atrium  
1031 New Castle Road  
Prospect, PA 16052

This event is hosted by the Penn State Extension. Topics of discussion include: What’s new in Weed Control, PGP Corn Marketing Options, Integrating Crops & Livestock, More Pasture & Fewer Inputs, Soil pH and Forage Quality & Yield, Cover Crops for Summer and Winter to Improve Soil & Feed Livestock, The Advantages of Baleage, and Soybean Management Highlights.

Cost is \$15.00 if you register by February 16<sup>th</sup>, or \$20.00 at the door. Call 724-774-3003 or visit <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops> to register.



**REAP Program  
Still Available**

**2017 SW PA Soil Health  
& No Till Conference**

The Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) Program is still available for the 2016 – 2017 Fiscal Year. Administered by the State Conservation Commission, the program allows farmers and businesses to earn PA state tax credits in exchange for implementing best management practices on agricultural operations that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources. For more information, visit <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov> or contact the District for an application.

**Economics of Soil Health: Why Living  
Roots Make Sense**

**Wednesday, January 25, 2017**

**9:00 am to 3:30 pm**

**St. Vincent College - Latrobe, PA**

\$35 per person. For more information, contact Dan Griffith at 724-837-5271 Ext. 103.



### **Bird Seed For Sale!**

The District has “Banquet” Bird Seed in stock. This quality bird seed is a mixture of sunflower seeds, red & white millet, safflower & peanut pieces. Cost for a 35 lb. bag is just \$21.00. Stop by the District office for a bag today. Sale of this bird seed benefits our Environmental Education Program.



### **Farm Plan Writing Workshop Tuesday, February 7, 2017 See page 1 for details**

