

Agriculture Newsletter *Winter - 2019*



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Manure Management Workshop

**Wednesday, February 13th
10am—Noon**

At the Jefferson Conservation District Office
Located 1/4 mile North of Exit 81 of I-80 on Route 28
in front of the Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds

Topics include:

- ◇ Completing your Manure Mgmt. Plan¹
- ◇ USDA Financial Assistance Programs
- ◇ Basics of Nutrient Cycling
- ◇ Overview of the Commercial Hauler & Broker Certification Program, and how to get certified²

With guest speaker Robb Meinen of the
Penn State Extension

*To register, contact the Jefferson Conservation
District by Feb. 11th at (814) 849 - 7463 or
mmwhitlatch@windstream.net*

**Free to Attend
Refreshments Provided
Free Soil Test Kits Available**

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

¹Manure Management Plans are required by the Department of Environmental Protection for all operations that have animals/land apply manure that don't have a current Nutrient Management Plan in place.

²Commercial Manure Haulers/Brokers are required to hold a valid certification by the PA Department of Agriculture to provide their services. Workbooks and Manure Hauler Level 1 Certification Worksheets will be available at the workshop.



Ag Mapping & Soil Mgmt. Plan Workshops

February 20th & 27th, 2019
10am—2:30pm both days

Penn State DuBois Campus
College Place DuBois, PA 15801
In the DEF Building, Rooms 202 & 204

These free workshops will enable you to complete your own Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan (DEP required plan of all farms that plow/till, including no-till) for your farm using Penn State's PAOnestop Program. Laptops will be provided. Farmers should plan to attend both days to complete their plans.

Lunch provided
2+2 Pesticide Credits Available
****2 category (01,18) on the 20th***
****2 core (00) on the 27th***

To register, contact the Clearfield Conservation District by February 8th at (814) 765 - 2629 or nhepfllccd@atlanticbbn.net.

These workshops are offered on behalf of the following organizations/sponsors:

Clearfield, Elk, & Jefferson Conservation Districts
Agricultural Ombudsman Program
Penn State Extension
Center for Dairy Excellence
Center for Beef Excellence
PAOneStop Program



Soil Health & Cover Crops Workshop

The Penn State Extension will be holding a free workshop on **January 30th, 2019** from 9am-Noon at AgChoice Farm Credit, 232 Curryville Rd. Martinsburg, PA 16662. This workshop is an "A to Z" look at soil health and cover crops. Participants will learn why and how to incorporate cover crops into farms in a way that works for Pennsylvania.

Register by January 28th at: <https://extension.psu.edu/soil-health-and-cover-crops-workshop>, or call 1-877-345-0691

Cover Crops & No-Till Meeting

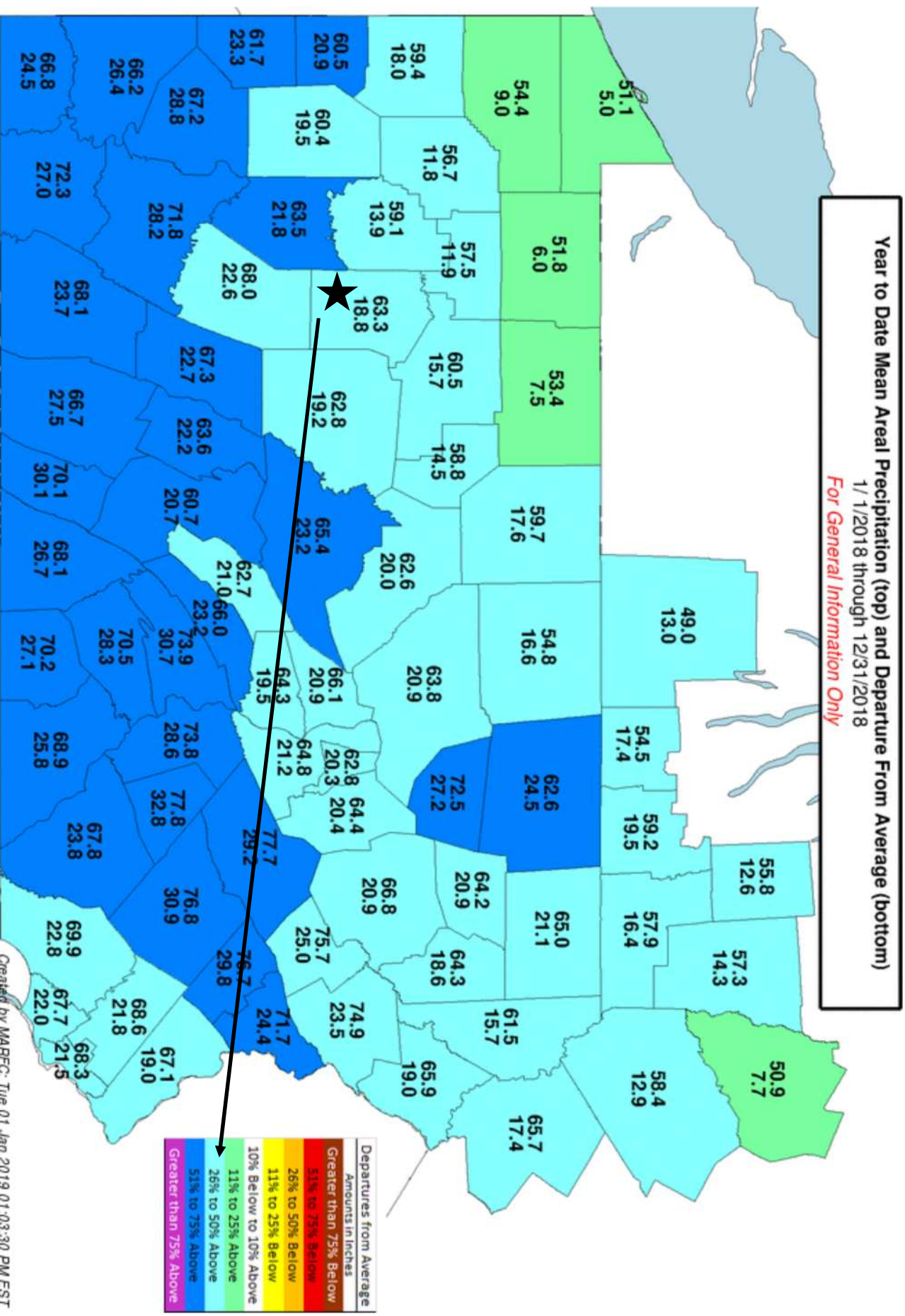
The PA No-Till Alliance will be holding a soil health meeting entitled "Cover Crops and No-Till: Making it Work" on **February 25th, 2019** at the Trinity Point Church of God in Clarion, PA. The event is free (lunch included). For more information, and/or to register, contact the PA No-Till Alliance administrative coordinator Jay Howes at 717—574—4510, or Lisa Blazure from the Clinton Conservation District at 570—660—7544.

22nd Annual Western PA Grazing Conference

This year's conference will be held **March 13th & 14th, 2019** at the Trinity Point Church of God in Clarion, PA with keynote speaker Dr. Fred Provenza of Utah State University. Cost is \$45.00 to attend for either day, or \$85.00 to attend both days (including evening session). A continental breakfast and a hot buffet lunch is included both days. To register by the March 6th deadline, contact Headwaters RC&D Council at (814) 503 – 8653 or visit their website, www.headwaterspa.org.

2018 Rainfall in Review

The data shown below was extracted from the National Weather Service Website (<https://www.weather.gov/marfc/> NorthPrecipitationYTD). Jefferson County, as many others, saw a 26%-50% above departure-from-average rainfall.



Manure Management in Wet/Winter Conditions

This past year's rainfall left many farmers behind schedule. While manure spreading in wet or winter conditions is not ideal, and is discouraged, it becomes a necessity in some cases to avoid overflowing manure tanks and excess manure buildup in the barnyard. Here are a few tips & guidelines to follow if you find yourself needing to remove manure in these conditions.

Wet Weather Spreading Tips

- ◇ Avoid filling spreading equipment to capacity to prevent soil compaction.
- ◇ Don't spread more than is necessary; if your manure tank is not in danger of overflowing, wait to spread most of it until drier weather. Note: Manure storage tanks must have a free-board of 6-inches at all times.
- ◇ Spread at a lower application rate to avoid excess runoff
- ◇ Spread on fields the farthest away from water sources first.
- ◇ For solid manure, collect from the barnyard as needed and stack in the field for spreading in drier weather if possible. Stacks in the field should be covered with an impermeable cover if they will be in the field for an extended period of time and should be placed 100' away from water sources.
- ◇ Plan ahead; spread manure while the weather is dry or call your manure hauler/spreader well in advance to get them on schedule to remove manure from your tank before it's too late.
- ◇ As always, maintain manure application setbacks from water sources; including wells and springs.

Winter Spreading Guidelines

What Is Considered Winter Spreading?

In Pennsylvania, under manure management regulations, it's considered winter spreading when any of the following occur:

- * The timeframe of December 15 - February 28
- * Anytime the ground is frozen \geq 4 inches
- * Anytime the ground is snow covered

When any one of the 3 above conditions occur, there are restrictions when applying manure to prevent excess manure runoff from reaching water sources. They include the following:

- * The maximum application rate permitted is 5,000 gallons/acre of liquid manure, 20 tons/acre dry non-poultry manure, and 3 tons/acre of dry poultry manure.
- * Keep 100' setback from an above ground inlet to an agricultural drainage system where the surface water flow is toward the above ground inlet
- * Fields must have at least 25% crop residue or an established growing cover crop
- * No application on fields with slopes $>15\%$
- * The 100' manure application setback from environmentally sensitive areas such as streams, lakes, and ponds *cannot* be reduced as it can in non-winter months if certain management practices are implemented.

The winter manure spreading guidelines are derived from DEP's Manure Management Manual.