

# Agriculture Newsletter

## Spring 2021



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## Manure Management Plan Development Webinar

As a reminder, the PA Department of Environmental Protection requires all farms that have animals and/or land apply manure to have a Manure Management Plan. This short, free recorded webinar will provide an overview of the manure management regulations and show you how to complete a manure management plan step-by-step.

To access the webinar, please visit our website at [www.jeffersonconservation.com](http://www.jeffersonconservation.com) or visit our facebook page.

A limited supply of free soil test kits will be reserved until August 31, 2021 (limit 2 per farm) for farmers that watch the webinar and email/mail responses from the survey (a copy of the survey is found on the last page of this newsletter), or contact us to get a manure management plan completed.

Manure management plan development is a free service the Jefferson Conservation District offers to farmers in the County.



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The Penn State Extension has a number of educational online courses and webinars available on their website at: <https://extension.psu.edu/shopby/webinars>. Whether you are a beginning farmer looking to try something new, or just want to learn more about something, it's worth taking a look at what they have to offer. Below are a few examples of what's available:

**Webinars:**

- Pasture Management for Pigs (Free) 4/13/21, 7pm-8pm
- Understanding & Managing Equine Parasites (Free) 4/14/21, 12pm-1pm
- Farm Energy Day: Analyzing Your Farm's Utility Bills (Free) 4/22/2021, 12pm-1pm
- Cow Health in Pasture-Based Dairies (Free, recorded)
- Weed Identification & Management in Pastures (Free, recorded)
- Creating a Healthy, Comfortable Environment for Calves (Free, recorded)

**Online Courses:**

- Beef Production & Management (\$139, available year-around): discusses breeds, establishing facilities, nutrition and reproduction, marketing and finances.
- Best Milking Practices (\$99, available year-around): teaches dairy producers and handlers about the best management and milking practices to prevent mastitis and to maximize production.
- Grazing 101: Sustainable Pasture Management for Livestock (\$99, available year-around): Learn how to sustainably manage beef cattle, sheep, and meat goats on pasture. Understand the variables concerning



## Reminder of No-Till Equipment Rental Availability

Incase you missed it in the last newsletter, the Clearfield County Conservation District is now allowing Jefferson County farmers to rent one of their 10 ft. Great Plains no-till drills to plant crops such as soybeans, oats, wheat, hay/alfalfa, sorghum, pasture mixes, or cover crops. This drill will not be permitted to plant food plots or any other crop that isn't for agronomic use. The fees will be \$12/acre for all cash crops and \$7/acre for all cover crops. Farmers interested in using the no-till drill should contact the Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD) at least 1 month in advance before using the drill (814-849-7463). We will need to know the dates that you hope to use it, crops that will be planted, and the total amount of acres you are planning to plant. A rental

further guide you in choosing mixtures best suited to your needs.



Table 1. Characteristics of perennial cool-season grasses in the Northeast.

Grass	Seedling vigor	Tolerance to soil limitations			Winter survival	Tolerance to frequent harvest	Relative maturity <sup>b</sup>
		Drought	Wet	Low pH <sup>a</sup>			
Kentucky bluegrass	M <sup>c</sup>	L	M	M	H	H	Early
Orchardgrass	H	M	M	M	M	H	Early-medium
Perennial ryegrass	H	L	M	M	L	H	Early-medium
Smooth brome grass	H	H	M	M	H	L	Medium-late
Tall fescue	H	M	M	H	M	H	Medium-late
Timothy	M	L	L	M	H	L	Late

<sup>a</sup> pH below 6.0.  
<sup>b</sup> Maturity characteristic refers to relative time of seed head appearance in the spring. This will depend not only on species but also variety.  
<sup>c</sup> L = low, M = moderate, H = high



Table 1. Characteristics of perennial forage legumes in Pennsylvania.

Legume	Seedling Vigor	Tolerance to soil limitations			Heaving potential	Persistence	Tolerance to frequent:		Relative maturity <sup>b</sup>
		Drought	Wet	Low pH <sup>a</sup>			grazing	harvest	
Alfalfa	M <sup>c</sup>	H	L	L	H	H	L	M	Early
Birds-foot trefoil	L	M	H	H	L	M	H	H	Late
Red clover	H	L	M	M	M	L	H	M	Medium-late
White clover	M	L	H	M	L	H	H	H	Early-medium

<sup>a</sup> pH below 6.0.

Maps are now available at the Clearfield/Jefferson/Elk County FSA Office for acreage reporting purposes. If you wish to receive your maps by email, please call our office or email Lesley Fairman at [lesley.fairman@usda.gov](mailto:lesley.fairman@usda.gov) or Sara Brooks at [sara.l.brooks@usda.gov](mailto:sara.l.brooks@usda.gov).

Please see the following acreage reporting deadlines for Clearfield/Jefferson/Elk County:

June 15, 2021 - Spring Barley, Spring Oats, Spring Wheat, Rye, Triticale,  
Spring Forage Seeding (hay)

July 15, 2021 - Corn, Sweet Corn, Soybeans, Conservation Reserve  
Program (CRP), and all other crops

In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, you must file timely acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may cause ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.

## Manure Management Plan Development Webinar Survey

Below is a hard copy of the survey from the Manure Management Plan Development webinar. If you would like to get free soil test kits for watching the webinar, please include your name, address, and phone number at the bottom of this survey and send your responses in by August 31, 2021 to the Jefferson Conservation District: 1514 Route 28 Brookville PA 15825, or you can email responses to: [megan@jeffersonconservation.com](mailto:megan@jeffersonconservation.com).

### Webinar Survey

**1. How much knowledge have you gained in the topics below after the webinar?**

A.) Nonpoint Source Pollution & Your Watershed:

None       Some       A lot

B.) Manure Management Regulations & How to Fill out a Manure Management Plan:

None       Some       A lot

**2. Do you plan to implement a Manure Management Plan for your farm in the near future?**

Yes       No       I already have one that I follow

**3. Other comments/suggestions (how this webinar could be improved, was it helpful, etc.)**