

## Dauphin County Manure Management Meetings

**February 1, 2012  
8:00am-3:30pm**

- \* held in conjunction with Upper Dauphin County Crops School Program
- \* Contact the Extension Office at 717-921-8803

**Thursday, February 16, 2012  
1:30pm  
Gratz Community Center**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2012  
7:00pm  
Dauphin County Agriculture  
& Natural Resources Center**

**Thursday, March 1, 2012  
7:00pm  
Londonderry Township Building**

Please contact the Dauphin County Conservation District to register for the 2/16, 2/21 and 3/1 meetings.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**1451 Peters Mountain Road  
Dauphin, PA 17018**

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## Today's Manure Management in Pennsylvania

Understanding the recent revisions to  
DEP's Manure Management Manual



## **NEW Manure Management Requirements**

Recently, revisions were made to Pennsylvania DEP's Manure Management Manual; these regulations now include many farms not previously required to maintain such records. Under the revised requirements, a *written* Manure

Management Plan must be developed and followed by all operations, regardless of size, producing and/or land applying manure. The plan simply needs to be kept on the farm and doesn't need to be

approved, unless the farm is a Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Farms defined as CAOs or CAFOs are required to develop written plans as well; the nutrient management plans for these animal operations are required to follow a different, more detailed process and must be developed by a Certified Nutrient Management Specialist.

## **Proper Manure Management is a Good Idea**

Manure Management allows the maximum use of your on-farm resources. By adding organic matter to the soil, manure may improve water infiltration, moisture-holding capacity of the soil, aeration and soil structure. In addition to the valuable macro nutrients of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium, manure also adds beneficial micro nutrients such as Calcium, Magnesium, Sulfur and Zinc. Based on Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium alone, the value of manure is equivalent to \$287/cow/year, \$785/1000 broilers/year and \$34/hog/year (December 2011 data).

## **Manure Management on Smaller Farms**

In the past, manure regulation was centered on larger operations, however with the recent revisions, the emphasis will now be on smaller operations. Many producers previously not mandated to keep records regarding manure are now required to do so. These new regulations include horse farms (even the maintenance of one horse), smaller farms that land apply manure, those that export their manure and farms that pasture animals (including minimal smaller livestock).

Each Manure Management Plan, individualized for the operation and records of implementation, must be kept on-site and available upon request; a standardized format and worksheets from DEP's Manure Management Manual must be followed unless an alternative is approved by DEP. The plan may be prepared by the farmer or another trained individual and does not need to be submitted or approved. Manure Management plans will include farm map(s), Nitrogen and Phosphorus application rates, application setbacks and winter application. Additionally, pastures, barnyard runoff and storage and stacking areas will be addressed.

## **Do you need a Manure Management Plan and are unsure where to start?**

The Dauphin County Conservation District and Penn State Cooperative Extension will host four informational sessions throughout the county to more thoroughly present these recent revisions to Pennsylvania DEP's Manure Management Manual. All who are affected by these regulations are encouraged to attend one of the meetings. Opportunities to completely develop the required Manure Management Plan will be discussed.

