

Pennsylvania CAFOs Stakeholders Meeting

March 19, 2003, Rachael Carson State Office Bldg. 10th Floor Conf. Rm.

Introduction: The Pennsylvania program will continue the stakeholder meetings process used for development of the current program. This will involve understanding the new EPA requirements and seeking a constructive exchange of ideas, while building upon the current program and integrating related programs and revisions. Each participant was requested to provide important issues, which resulted in the following:

ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY WORK GROUP MEMBERS

- Finding out what the new requirements will be
- Program modifications should meet federal requirements and not go beyond
- Coordination of regulatory programs
- Protection of the environment and fair to local communities
- Define the impacts on farming and the environment
- Provide education on the requirements
- Minimizing the impact of manure on the environment
- Maintain commonsense
- Keeping farmers from being declared CAFOs
- Coordination between programs
- Farmer friendly and implementable
- How to handle EPA numbers
- Coordination, education and public outreach
- Keep things simple
- Closing loopholes in the program (exported manure)

Overview: A summary handout from EPA was used as an overview of the revised EPA rules. Here is a list of items that came up during the overview:

OVERVIEW DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Accepting and reviewing applications for voluntary CAFO coverage prior to the new program
- Use of Individual permits or Part 2 permits for needed water quality protection
- Dealing with sites that have alternative or discharge treatment systems
- Describe what is a new facility – expansion, new storage, new site
- Fish facilities are not covered under the CAFO program
- Will animals be combined to meet the thresholds, either within or between species
- When will be the best time to report manure transfers

Additional or Related Items: Another list was generated of additional or related items that could be addressed:

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT TO THE PROGRAM

- Alternative technologies and uses
- Streamline permitting for new technologies
- Funding for implementation
- Manure export and transport

- Encourage regional solutions
- Public acceptance of new CAFOs
- Limestone area consideration
- Guidance and consistency among regions
- Environmental management systems
- Co-permitting
- Phosphorus requirements
- Need to build the credibility of government in regulating CAFOs
- Real public concerns - odors, property values and contamination of private wells

Animal Numbers Workgroup: A small workgroup was set up to review options for the animal number thresholds. The workgroup may later work on refining estimates of the types and number of operations affected. A conference call was set for 2PM on Friday, March 28 with the following participants: Charles Abdalla, Doug Goodlander, Kelly O’Neill, Bill Rogers, Bob Gibson and Tom Juengst (coordinator).

Additional Participation: The importance of participation by the Pa. Dept. of Agriculture was mentioned.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for Tuesday, April 15.

Participants:

Charlie Abdalla, Professor, Penn State U. College of Ag. Science
 Bill Achor, Environmental Coordinator, Wenger’s Feed, Inc.
 Bill Adams; Pa. Farm Bur.
 Dan Alters, Program Mgr., DEP NCRO
 Doug Brennan, Atty., DEP OCC
 Karl Brown, Exec. Sec., SCC
 Alissa Dodd, Ext. Assoc., Penn State U.
 Martin Ferry, Permits Chief, DEP SCRO
 Don Fiesta, Prof. Geologist, DEP CO
 Bob Gibson, Section Chief, DEP CO
 Doug Goodlander, Program Mgr., SCC-Nutrient Mgmt. Program
 Tom Juengst, Program Specialist, DEP CO
 Cedric Karper, Div. Chief, DEP CO
 Tim Murphy, Conservation Engineer, USDA-NRCS
 Kelly O’Neill, Ag. Policy Analyst, Pa. CBF
 Walt Peechatka, Exec. Vice Pres., PennAg Industries Assoc.
 William Rogers; Private Consultant
 Kim Snell-Zarcone, Staff Atty., Penn Future
 Jim Spontak, Operations Chief, DEP SCRO