



Snyder County Conservation District

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 14, 2011

Conservation District To Plan Farm Visits

MIDDLEBURG -- Farms that handle manure are required to have a Manure Management Plan and use the state's Manure Management Manual, which provides information on the environmentally correct ways to handle animal manure. Unlike some laws, manure management requirements apply to all farms, not only the large farms that are considered Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) or Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs). Even people who raise or house horses or other animals, excluding pets, who would not consider themselves as farmers must follow these regulations. The Manure Management Manual includes requirements for winter application of manure and setbacks from streams, drinking water supplies and sinkholes. As with the required written agricultural erosion control plans, a written manure management plan is required.

PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is requiring conservation districts to reach out to all agricultural operations within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and inform the agricultural community of their regulatory obligations. Conservation district staff will begin conducting site visits with agricultural operations in July 2011.

These visits are educational in nature and are not farm inspections looking for violations. If a Conservation district staff person asks to meet with you, please accept him or her. The meetings will take only thirty minutes. The conservation district person will not enter livestock facilities and manure handling areas unless invited by the farmer.

If you have questions, please contact the Snyder County Conservation District, located at 10541 Route 522, Middleburg, at 570-837-3000 between 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Website: www.snyderconservation.org

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