



Snyder County Conservation District

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Conservation District and CNH Present Info on New Topics: New Manure Management Regulations & Agricultural GPS

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD), along with CNH, cosponsored a meeting for local farmers about the new manure management regulations and upcoming GPS technology for farmers. The evening meeting was held at the SCCD Office, 10541 Route 522, Middleburg, on Thursday, May 3, 2012. Financial support for this project was provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant and the Clean Water Fund and through a Growing Greener Grant.

Barry Spangler, SCCD Agricultural Conservation Technician (shown standing below), first gave an overview of the new Manure Management Manual and other agricultural environmental regulations. Packets containing information about the Manure Management Manual and other regulations were distributed to those farmers who attended. (More details later.)



Matt Zerby, CNH Parts & Service Sales Manager (shown standing in a later photo), later gave a presentation on GPS (global positioning systems) technology available for farmers to help out with their field and forage crop operations. For more information about CNH GPS, contact Matt at (570) 765-4975 or matthew.zerby@cnh.com.

Agricultural Environmental Regulations

Every farm that produces or land applies manure, regardless of size, is required to have and follow a written MMP (manure management plan). This includes manure spreading on fields from equipment and grazing animals on pastures and in ACAs, such as barnyards, bare spots in pastures, etc.). *For example, this affects people who own one horse, one goat, one pig or one steer.*

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The Manure Management Manual, published in October 2011 by PA DEP, supplies information about new rules regarding the following:

- Manure application (from manure spreaders) rates, timing and no-spread zones
- Pasture management
- Animal concentrated areas (ACAs), such as barnyards, pasture bare spots, etc.
- Record keeping: manure application, manure imports and exports, crop yields, manure storage maintenance

The Manure Management Manual also contains a manure management plan (MMP) in a workbook format. The MMP can be completed by the farmer. Manure application charts for the major agronomic crops and livestock species are also inside the Manure Management Manual.

Note: Farmers with large numbers of animals or a large animal density in relation to farmland managed may be required to have a more details nutrient management plan (NMP) written by a certified nutrient management specialist who commercially writes these plans.

The Conservation District is planning additional workshops and services for farmers:

- Informational workshops explaining the Manure Management Manual and its contents similar to the one held at the SCCD office.
 - Another meeting is planned for June 5 at the Snyder East Building (former Selinsgrove Career Link Building) for horse owners in cooperation with Susquehanna Valley Veterinary and Pfizer. Contact Barry Spangler (570-837-3000, x118; bspangler@ptd.net) for details and registration.
- MMP writing workshops for farmers interested in writing their own plans.
 - Selinsgrove Young Farmers have already scheduled a writing workshop later in 2012. If several farmers are interested in a MMP writing workshop, contact Barry Spangler (570-837-3000, x118; bspangler@ptd.net) for details and registration.
- Assist farmers with writing portions of their MMPs.
- Write the MMPs based on information supplied by the farmers (if time permits).
- Supply farmers with maps.
- With assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), help farmers with ACA issues.

Spangler also gave information about the new state agricultural erosion & sedimentation (E&S) plan requirements already in effect. (For instance, a cover crop is required after corn silage harvest in fields within 100 ft. from a streambank's edge.) Most farmers refer these plans as "conservation plans." Farmers can write these plans or ask NRCS (Middleburg Field Office: 570-837-0007, extension 3) to be placed on a waiting list to have conservation plans written to meet PA regulations.

Farmers are required to have MMPs and conservation plans up-to-date according to PA regulations, followed, records kept and have these plans and records on the farm. The sooner a farmer can get this accomplished, the better.

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Additional information can be found on our website at www.snyderconservation.org. Go to the following web pages for details, links and downloads:

- [Agricultural Nutrient Management](#)
- [Agricultural Erosion Prevention](#)

Questions or comments about the Manure Management Manual or services and programs related to it should be forwarded to Barry Spangler, Agricultural Conservation Technician, at 570-837-3000, extension 118 or bspangler@ptd.net.



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All USDA and Conservation District programs and services are offered on a non-discrimination basis.

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