



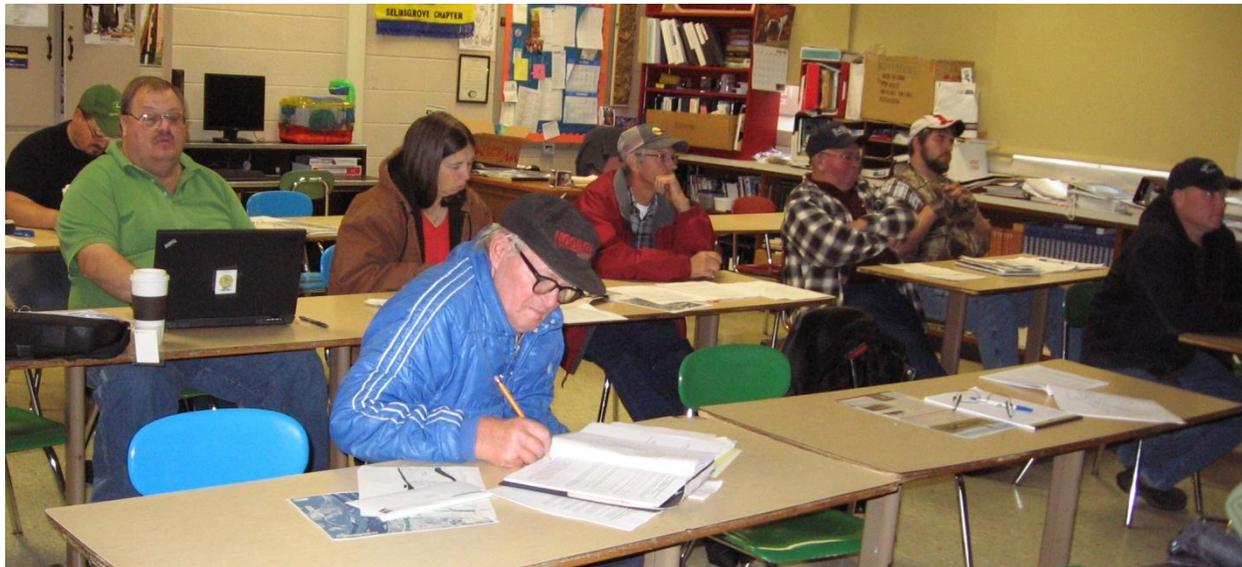
Snyder County Conservation District

10541 ROUTE 522, MIDDLEBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17842, PHONE: (570) 837-3000, FAX: (570) 837-7300

Selinsgrove Young Farmers Learn How to Write Manure Management Plans from Conservation District

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) was asked by members of the Selinsgrove Young Farmers Association to explain how they, as farmers, can write their own manure management plans on November 3, 2012, at the Selinsgrove Area High School.

Barry Spangler, SCCD Agricultural Conservation Technician, gave an overview of the new Manure Management Manual and other agricultural environmental regulations. He also gave a step by step process of how farmers can write their manure management plans (MMPs) that meet these new regulations.



Above: Members of the Selinsgrove Young Farmers Association listen on how to write their own MMPs to meet environmental regulations. Many brought information such as soil test results, farm maps and other information to the workshop. They will need these items, as well as information learned at the workshop, to complete their MMPs at their farms.

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

The Manure Management Manual, published in October 2011 by PA Department of Environmental Protection (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 detailed 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.
- MMP writing workshops for farmers interested in writing their own plans.
- 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.

Questions or comments about MMPs, NMPs or services and programs related to it should be forwarded to the Conservation District at (570) 837-3000.

Note #1: Special thanks go to Curt Swineford and Valerie Fry, Agriculture Department High School Teachers and Young Farmer Advisors.

Note #2: Selinsgrove Young Farmers is one of many chapters of the PA Young Farmers Association (PYFA) dedicated "to education and promotion of environmentally appropriate production, marketing, and processing of food, feed and fiber. Our adult education in agriculture program provides individual and group organized instruction to agriculturists and consumer public in the local community. Specifically, the program is designed to assist those in production, agriculture, and agribusiness to become successfully established or to improve their current agricultural status. Also, an educational focus is to improve understanding and communication between the consumer public and the agricultural community regarding common concerns and issues." Motto: "A Young Farmer is Any Farmer Willing to Learn." Taken from PYFA website: (www.payoungfarmers.com).

Version: 3-12-2013, Revised