



Snyder County Conservation District

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Conservation District, Susquehanna Valley Veterinary and Pfizer Present Info on These Topics: New Manure Management Regulations & Equine Health

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD), along Susquehanna Valley Veterinary of Paxinos, PA, and Pfizer, cosponsored a meeting for local horse owners about the new manure management regulations and equine health issues. The evening meeting was held at the Snyder East Building (former Career Link Building), 713 Bridge Street, Selinsgrove, on Tuesday, June 5, 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.)



Dr. Mark Crisman, Pfizer Equine Veterinary Representative, (shown standing in a later photo), later gave a presentation on equine health issues that horse and other equine owners should know. For more information about equine health, contact your veterinarian.

Agricultural Environmental Regulations

Every operation 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 animal operator/animal owner. Manure application charts for the major agronomic crops and livestock species are also inside the Manure Management Manual.

Note: Animal operations 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 and animal owners:

- Informational workshops explaining the Manure Management Manual and its contents similar to meetings just as the held on June 5 or farmer specific meetings held at the SCCD office in May.
 - At this time, none are scheduled. Contact Barry Spangler (570-837-3000, x118; bspangler@ptd.net) to get a meeting created or to have a one-on-one meeting either with him or another SCCD staff person.
- 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/or 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. Even if a person owns horses and only graze pastures and do not grow crops, an agricultural E&S plan is still required.

Farmers and animal operations 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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Refreshments were supplied by Dr. Jacqueline A. Rapp, VMD, Susquehanna Valley Veterinary, Paxinos, PA and Pfizer. Thank you for the donations and bringing Dr. Crisman to the meeting.

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

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