

Agriculture Resources

Venango Conservation
District

Agenda

Venango Conservation District/Ag Tech

Soil Health

Manure Management/Nutrient Management

BMPs

Funding Sources/Grants





Introduction

The mission of the Venango Conservation District is to promote the wise use, enhancement and understanding of natural resources and improve the environmental quality for the citizens of the county and state.

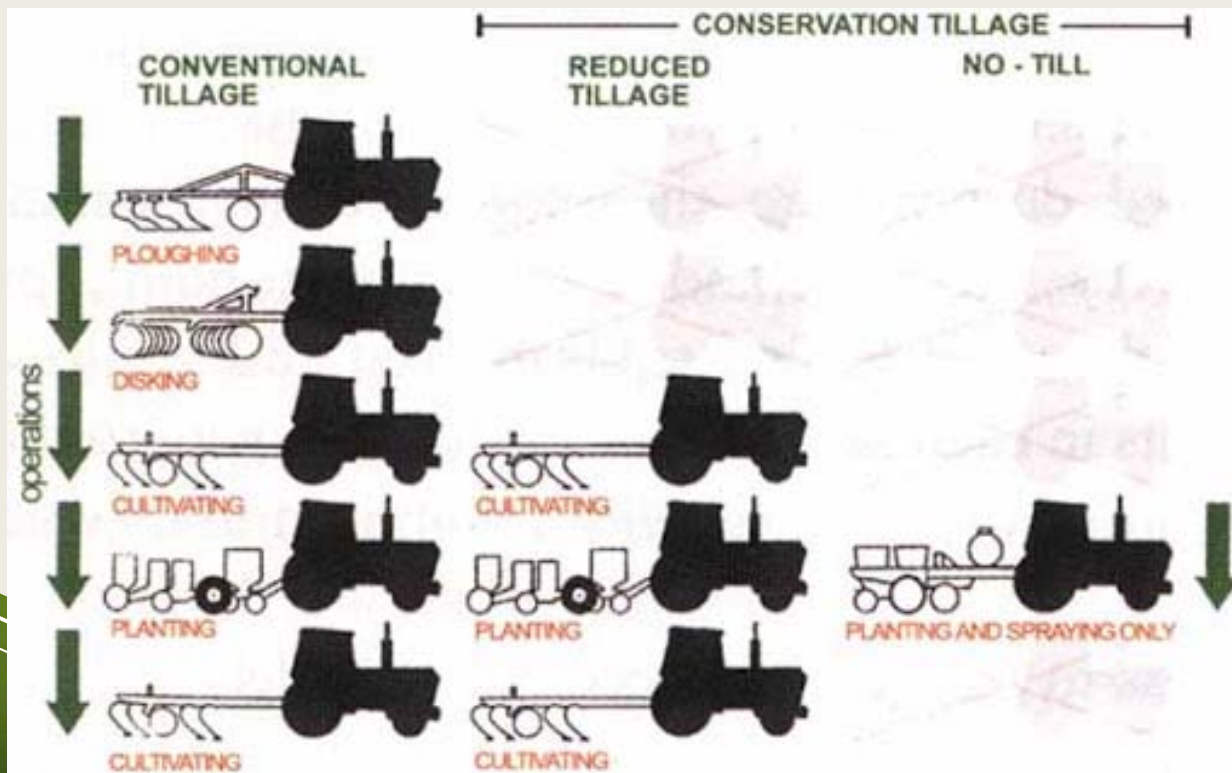
- Cooperating with other agencies and organizations to achieve a healthy living environment.
- Seeking voluntary compliance with environmental laws and regulations
- Providing educational programs to educators, students and the public so they are ore knowledgeable of our environment and its natural resources

Soil Health

Tillage, cover crop, soil test, nutrients



Conservation Tillage



Cover Crop

Cover crops can:

- ▶ Increase soil organic matter
- ▶ Increase nitrogen balance in the soil
- ▶ Suppress pests (weeds)
- ▶ Provide habitat for beneficial insects
- ▶ Enhance soil biological activity
- ▶ Control erosion
- ▶ Prevent compaction



What do you want your cover crop to do?

Soil Nutrients



Soil Test: Help us determine what the soil needs and at what rate



Spreading Manure: we can assist with manure spreader calibration and sampling. This helps us determine the rate and nutrients going into the soil



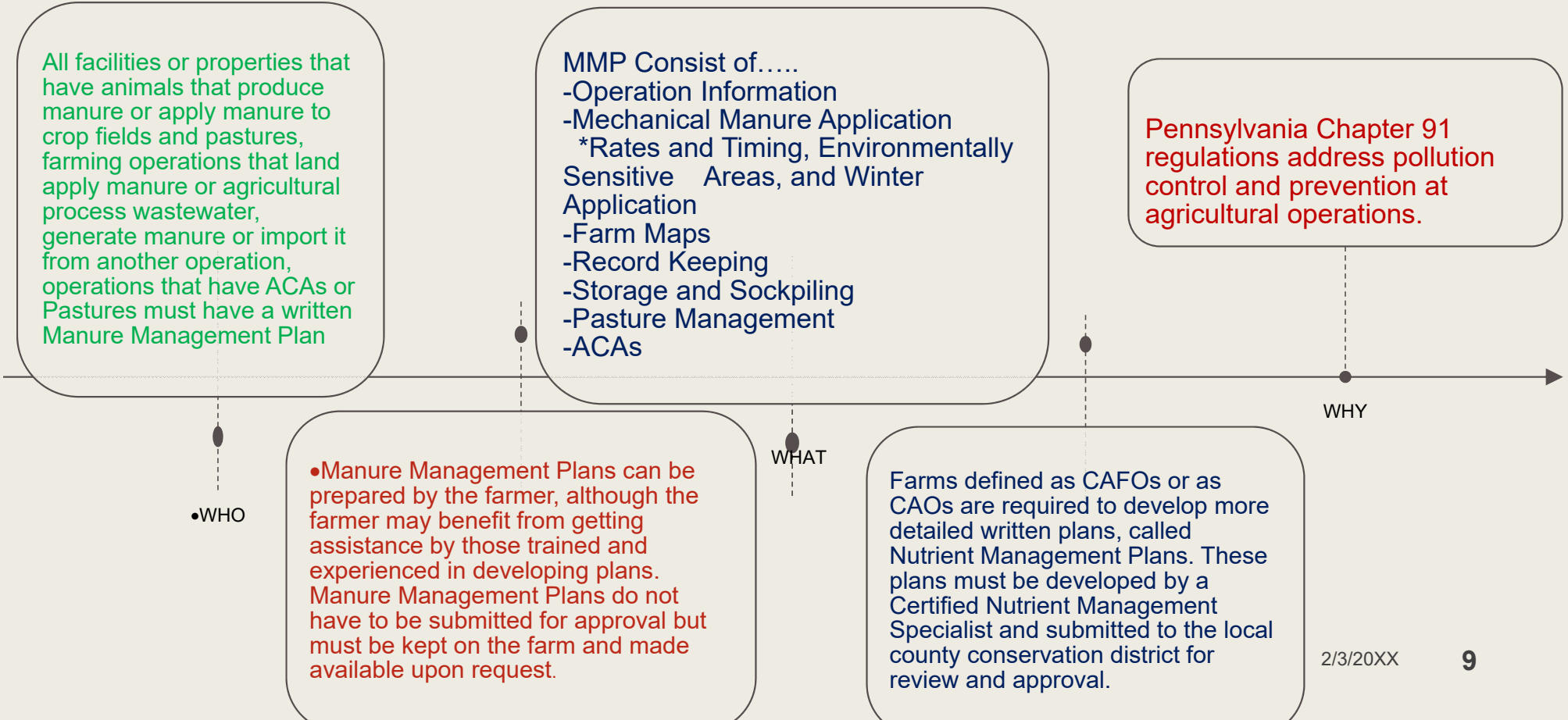


**DEP: Chapter 91 Manure
Management**

**SCC: ACT 38 Nutrient
Management**



DEP: Manure Management





SCC: Nutrient Management

Calculate the animal density of an agricultural operation to determine if it is a Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) and thereby required to implement an Act 38 nutrient management plan.

- NMP Consist of.....
- Operation Information
 - Mechanical Manure Application
 - *Rates and Timing,
 - Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and Winter Application
 - Farm Maps
 - Record Keeping
 - Storage and Stockpiling
 - Pasture Management
 - ACAs

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania declares that the Commonwealth has a vested and sincere interest in ensuring the long-term sustainability of agriculture and normal agricultural operations in a manner that is consistent with State policies and statutes. In furtherance of this goal, the Commonwealth has enacted statutes to 2 protect and preserve agricultural operations for the production of food and other agricultural products.

The Commonwealth has also empowered local government units to protect the health, safety and welfare of their citizens and to ensure that normal agricultural operations do not negatively impact upon the health, safety and welfare of citizens

•WHO

Concentrated animal operations (CAOs) are defined as agricultural operations where the animal density of all livestock on the farm exceeds 2 animal equivalent units (AEUs) per acre on an annualized basis. An operation with fewer than 8 AEUs is not considered to be a CAO regardless of the animal density.

WHAT

Farms defined as CAFOs or as CAOs are required to develop more detailed written plans, called Nutrient Management Plans. These plans must be developed by a Certified Nutrient Management Specialist and submitted to the local county conservation district for review and approval.

WHY

MM vs NM

AEUs for each type of animal = [average number of animals on a typical day that the animals are there x animal weight (lb) ÷ 1,000] x [number of days the animals are on the operation per year ÷ 365]



MANURE MANAGEMENT

- Volunteer Animal Operations (VAOs)
- Farmer, Conservation District, or Specialist
- Required by the State
- Required for Certain Funding: REAP, Loans, Grants

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) or Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) and (VAOs by Choice)
- Certified Specialist
- Required by the State
- Required for Certain Funding: REAP, Loans, Grants, NRCS/EQUIP (CNMP)

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

WHAT

- Practices installed to reduce and limit soil, fertilizer, and animal nutrients runoff
- BMP Examples:
 - Streambank Fencing
 - Rotational Grazing
 - Concrete Manure Storage
 - Concrete HUA
 - Cover Crops/No Till
 - NMP/CNMP

WHY

- Important to protect our natural resources
- Extend the life of operations, bottom-line
- Help the future of farm
- Reduce operational cost

HOW

- PA Standard
- Grants, NRCS EQUIP, Farmers Pocket, REAP



\$\$\$Funding \$\$\$



Farmer

A farmer can always pay out of pocket, do the work themselves



VCD: Grants Growing Greener Northwest Commission

The VCD Ag Tech can assist Operators with grant writing, and putting things into place for the other funding sources



NRCS:EQUIP

The FSA/NRCS Office in Clarion can assist farmers with funding opportunities



REAP

Eligible to receive 50-75% of TOTAL Project cost \$ back in State Income Tax Credits

Sit on these credits for a year and sell them for on the dollar



Questions

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Thank You!

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