

# Dairy Feed Management

## EPA outlines plans to set pollution caps for Chesapeake

(WASHINGTON, November 20, 2008) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen L. Johnson today renewed EPA's commitment to speed Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts with its partners, while agency officials outlined plans for an unprecedented effort to set pollution caps needed to meet water quality standards throughout the Bay's watershed.

Johnson said that leadership in the development of a bay-wide pollution cap, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, will be among EPA's significant contributions.

For more information:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/44F0FE46E1FC960D85257508005C78E9>

Welcome to the first issue of "Dairy Feed Management." This is a monthly publication featuring news of interest to certified feed management planners.

For more information about feed management issues, visit our website:

<http://dairyalliance.psu.edu/resources/feed-management-planners/>



A newsletter for certified feed management planners  
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## Fecal/manure sampling: A major component of a feed management plan

A major component of a feed management plan is taking fecal/manure samples prior to the implementation of a plan. This sets the baseline on where the herd or groups of cows are prior to the start of a plan.

It is important to know that Pennsylvania and Maryland have different approaches to fecal/manure sampling. In Pennsylvania, feed management plans can be written for groups of animals. They can include lactating, dry and heifer groups. This means that fecal/manure samples need to be taken for the group of animals for which the feed management plans are written. In Maryland, manure samples are taken from the storage unit.

Another requirement is the use of a certified manure testing lab. The following website lists

laboratories that are certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/licensing/pestfert/manurelabs.htm>

This is the only manure analysis certification of laboratories in North America. All have been certified for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus.

Instructions for sampling fecal/manure samples from groups of animals is available on the Dairy Alliance web site: <http://dairyalliance.psu.edu/resources/feed-management-planners>.

To get clarification for plans written in Maryland, contact Rick Kohn at the University of Maryland by phone 301-405- 4583 or email at [rkohn@umd.edu](mailto:rkohn@umd.edu) or contact Tim Pilkowski at NRCS Maryland by phone 443-482-2962 or email [Tim.Pilkowski@md.usda.gov](mailto:Tim.Pilkowski@md.usda.gov)

## Proposed cow tax

By Dairy Herd news source | Tuesday, December 09, 2008

Rumors that the Environmental Protection Agency plans to impose a tax on methane emissions from dairy, beef and hog operations are apparently untrue. In a statement Dec. 5, the EPA said it is currently reviewing public comments on proposed rule changes to the Clean Air Act. However, the agency also said it is not proposing a "cow tax" as a way to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The EPA's statement comes in response to a document circulated by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

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# Submitting your feed management plan

Currently, Pennsylvania and Maryland have active feed management programs in place. Because this program is new, the Mid-Atlantic Water Group requests that feed management plans be submitted to specific individuals to ensure that the plans are written consistently. In addition, each state has different guidelines to follow. For example, Pennsylvania and Maryland have different protocols for fecal/manure sampling.

Please submit your plans to the following people:

## In Maryland, submit plans to:

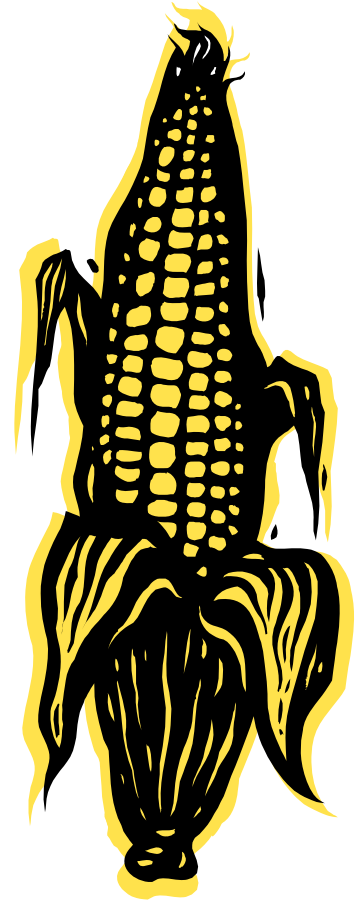
Rick Kohn  
University of Maryland

Animal Sciences Building (#142)  
College Park, MD 20742

## In Pennsylvania, submit plans to BOTH:

Virginia Ishler  
Penn State University  
324 Henning Building  
University Park, PA 16802

Jana Malot, USDA/NRCS  
PA State Office  
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340  
Harrisburg PA 17110-2993



## Where do nutrients go during anaerobic digestion?

The eXtension web site addresses the question about whether or not manure nutrients disappear in an anaerobic digester. "Nutrients in an anaerobic digester do not disappear," says Patrick Topper, Pennsylvania State University.

"The reason some people claim that a digester 'eats' nutrients is because some of the nutrients settle out in the sludge and stay in the digester until it is mechanically cleaned out."

This process is especially true in Plug Flow digesters. Phosphorus often settles out during the digestion process, for example, thus giving a net reduction in phosphorus.

In reality, the phosphorus is being stored in the solids, or sludge, accumulating in the digester. Some of the organic nitrogen may settle and a very small fraction may be lost with the biogas as ammonia, but essentially the nitrogen is not reduced in a digester, according to Topper.

Learn more in the Penn State fact sheet titled, "The Fate of Nutrients and Pathogens during Anaerobic Digestion of Dairy Manure," available online as a PDF file at [www.abe.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/g/G71.pdf](http://www.abe.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/g/G71.pdf). Visit the eXtension site at [www.extension.org/animal%20manure%20management](http://www.extension.org/animal%20manure%20management).

## EPA finalizes CAFO discharge requirements

EPA has finalized revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirements and Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards (ELG) for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

This rulemaking is in response to the Waterkeeper decision issued by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in February 2005. Revised regulations that address the 2005 decision were signed Oct. 31, 2008 and were published in the Federal Register on Nov. 20, 2008. These regulations went into effect on Dec. 22, 2008.

The final rule includes two key changes that address the Waterkeeper court decision. First, it revises the requirement for all CAFOs to apply for NPDES permits and instead requires only those CAFOs that discharge or propose to discharge to apply for permits. Second, the rule adds new requirements relating to nutrient management plans (NMPs) for permitted CAFOs.

More details on this rule can be found at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/afo/cafofinalrule.cfm>

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