

DER adopts regulations on stream protection

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's Environmental Quality Board has adopted regulations designed to improve stream protection and to streamline procedures for air pollution sources wishing to submit alternative emission reduction plans under the federal "bubble" policy.

EQB, a 21-member panel of executive agency officials, legislators and citizens charged with passing DER regulations, authorized the Department of Environmental Resources to publish notices of each emission proposal from air pollution source owners and operators and to conduct

public hearings on the proposed plans and regulations. The board reserved final authority to adopt, deny or modify any regulatory proposal which might result. Proposed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the "bubble" policy gives air pollution sources

the right to determine how they will meet federal and state air quality criteria by placing an "invisible bubble" around each plant.

The owner or operator then determines how to offset pollution from a poorly controlled source with other plant sources whose

pollution controls exceed minimum standards.

Approved alternative emission reduction plan applications must be submitted by DER to EPA for inclusion in the state's air pollution control implementation plan.

Aquatic life, as well as water irrigation uses, are expected to benefit from the board's incorporation of specific conductance criteria into its regulations governing total dissolved solids.

EQB also modified its nitrite-nitrate standard, designed to protect drinking water, to include a section spelling out the circumstances under which the criterion is to be applied. Both water regulation change proposals were aired at public hearings.

Seven public hearing dates were set by EQB to discuss various other environmental regulation change proposals it approved for publication this week.

Erie City Council chambers, Erie, will be the scene of the first hearing at 6 p.m. June 9 when proposed regulations establishing bluff recession and setback controls will be reviewed.

Act 48, recently adopted by the Legislature, sets the groundwork for these regulations which will be designed to protect coastal areas from the interlocking

threats of buildings being toppled from eroding bluffs and increased bluff erosion through the weight of buildings erected on fragile bluffs.

EQB and DER will conduct two afternoons and evenings of joint public hearings on the department's proposed index of designated watersheds for storm water management planning.

These hearings will be between 1 and 4 p.m. and 7 and 9 p.m. June 24 at Pennsylvania State University's DuBois Campus Study Learning Center, DuBois, and during the same hours on June 26 at Penn State's Berks Campus Student Center, Reading.

EQB approved for publication, and for comment within 15 days after such publication, regulations designed to provide financial assistance and reimbursement to counties for storm water management planning mandated by the Storm Water Management Act of 1978.

A 30-day public comment period was set by the board on its proposed revisions to regulations providing for implementation of the Dam Safety and Encroachment Act and specific provisions of the Flood Plain Control, Storm Water Management and Coastal Zone Management Acts.

Regulation may force more pinkeye prevention

LANCASTER — If pinkeye has been a problem in your cattle, you may have to find a new treatment this year.

That's from your government. Many of the widely-used pinkeye sprays have been pulled off the market, and more are expected to go.

Most of the sprays include a dye — principally blues and purples — to reduce the reflection of sunlight into the eye. But FDA now claims some of the dyes are irritants, and must not be used to treat food-producing animals.

The regulatory action leaves cattlemen few effective treatments for pinkeye, says Dr. R.C. Daniels, technical service veterinarian for Anchor Laboratories.

Daniels suggests to producers that now is the best time to examine preventative management for pinkeye — through nutrition, fly control and a herd vaccination program.

"Generally maintain a good nutritional level so the animals can build resistance to disease," Daniels says.

"That includes adequate vitamin A levels so the covering tissues are in good health."

Pinkeye is most common in late summer when grass is dry with little vitamin A precursor, and in early spring when cattle are deficient in vitamin A after winter.

"Without vitamin A supplementation in the winter, a definite deficiency can develop," Daniels says.

"And it takes a lot of green grass in the spring to make up that deficiency. For baby calves, we recommend a vitamin A injection the first time they're handled — at birth, branding or whenever.

At that time, I prefer the vitamin A-D-B₁₂ combination, because vitamin B₁₂ stimulates the production of red blood cells. With more red blood cells in the calf, he'll have better distribution of oxygen to the tissue, and that leads to better metabolism and better utilization of nutrients.

"With better utilization of nutrients, the calf will have a

better appetite. So you start a circle very much in favor of the profitability of the operation."

Traditionally pinkeye has been associated with "Moraxella bovis", a bacterium transmitted by face flies. So fly control continues to be an important part of pinkeye prevention.

Dust bags seem to be the most practical continuous method of fly control, Daniels says. While backrubbers may provide some protection, application is usually limited to the back. When an animal hits a dust bag, the dust will cover the face, back and sides. Also, calves get dusted while nursing because dust falls from the cow.

Dust bags should be hung near loitering spots in the pasture — in shade and near water — or in a gateway the cattle pass through daily.

In addition to the bacterial causes of pinkeye, a common cattle virus — IBR (Rednose) — can cause a condition resembling pinkeye. Infection of the eye by IBR can also damage surface tissues and allow bacterial infections to get started.

"IBR virus is responsible for a significant percentage of pinkeye infections in cattle," Daniels says.

"If we vaccinate for IBR we reduce the incidence of viral causes of eye irritation, and thereby reduce the incidence of secondary bac-

Chester-Delaware FFA elects county officers

MEDIA — The Chester-Delaware Association of the FFA held their first FFA meeting recently. The purpose of the meeting was to elect county officers and to give county degrees.

Those receiving county degrees were from O.J. Roberts — Mike Jankowski, Alan Golden, Dave Collins and Daryl Guest; from Oxford, Valerie Weaver, Bonnie Lamborn, Charles Alley, and Bonnie Arrowood; from Octorara — Joe Grieckspore, Dale Stoltzfus, Larry Landis and Geoffry Stauffer.

The highlight of the evening was the election of county officers. Winning President was Loren Ruth from O.J. Roberts; vice-president, Carol Carter from Oxford; secretary, Brad Hershey from Octorara; treasurer, Kathy Soltys from O.J. Roberts; student advisor, Charles Astle from Oxford; reporter, Ivan Yost

from Octorara; sentinel, Dean Maser from Octorara; and chaplain, Bonnie Lamborn from Oxford. Reported by Ivan Yost.

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