

NMAB Approves

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The result of those comments was a modification of the interim criteria.

According to a summary of changes provided at the Wednesday meeting, wording was changed slightly:

- So that the interim criteria are specific in stating that the criteria are only to be used by the Department of Agriculture in developing a certification program;

- So that the basic components of a plan identify nutrient sources, instead of "all" sources;

- That it identify those nutrient sources available "to be applied," rather than just available; that nitrogen "be the nutrient of primary concern" and other nutrients "will not be considered nutrients of primary concern;"

- So that if the use of additional Best Management Practices (BMPs) as defined in the Act are needed in developing a nutrient management plan, that that facet of the planning can be done by a nutrient management specialist, or in cooperation with others "with recognized conservation planning expertise;"

- So that the word "Ordinances" is dropped from the section heading under the interim criteria, "V. Laws, Regulations — ". The reason for this was because under the Act, local nutrient management ordinances can not be passed that

are more stringent than state law. (However, it was discussed briefly Wednesday that, while local ordinances may not "prohibit or in anyway regulate practices related to the storage, handling or land application of animal manure or nutrients, or to the construction, location or operation of facilities used for storage of animal manure or nutrients or practices otherwise regulated by ..." the Act, there is still the possibility of local ordinances controlling some things which are yet to be tested, such as height of a building in the vicinity of an airfield, etc. It was said that such gray area may ultimately have to be determined through the courts.)

Proposals Rejected

The Advisory Board rejected by show of hands a series of proposed amendments to the interim criteria submitted by board member William Brubaker, representing the fertilizer industry, that would create additional certification programs and levels, specifically for "Agronomic Nutrient Management Planning," and "Erosion and Sedimentation Control Planning."

Brubaker submitted the proposal under the heading of the Pennsylvania Agronomic Products Association, and said that his concern was with potential legal liability for a nutrient planner who created an inadequate plan in the

areas of erosion and sedimentation.

In a previous meeting, Brubaker had submitted the recently created Certified Crop Advisor Program as a template for developing a certification program for nutrient management specialists.

(As a sidenote, being a certified crop advisor doesn't require expertise in erosion and sedimentation.)

That unrelated program was developed by a nine-member committee of the American Society of Agronomy, upon which Brubaker was a member. Others who also helped develop the Certified Crop Advisor Program who also are involved with the nutrient management specialist program include Michael Krempasky, executive director of the State Conservation Commission, and Richard Duncan, with the state USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

First Look At Regs

For the first time, the advisory board reviewed draft regulations for nutrient management. Up until this time, the board dealt with the guidelines from which regulations would follow.

In distributing the draft, Krempasky asked that board members wait until the next meeting to start discussing minutiae, in order that major problems could be identified and recrafted by the next meeting.

The outline headings of prop-

Farms Can Sign Up For Free Publicity

PDA To Publish Directory

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff is looking for farmers who market their products directly to consumers to be included in a new consumers' guide to Pennsylvania farm markets scheduled for release this summer.

"Many people want to get agricultural products right from the producers, but they don't know where to find them," Wolff said. "This new booklet will help to make both residents and visitors aware of the many products that are available directly from our producers."

To be included in the directory, farmers who sell their products directly to consumers must complete an information sheet describing the farm and the types of products that are sold.

Penn State Cooperative Extension Offices in each county will be assisting with the project.

Farmers who sell directly to consumers and who have not received a form by March 29 should contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Division of Commodity Promotions at (717) 787-5086 to have a form mailed to them.

osed regulations included General Provisions, Mandatory Nutrient Management Plans, Nutrient Management Planning, and Animal Storage Facilities.

The eight pages of proposed regulations were marked on each page with the large capitalized word, "DRAFT," and a note stating that the preliminary draft was for discussion purposes only and was prepared specifically for this week's meeting.

These first proposed regulations deal with some of the basic overviews of regulatory language, such as definitions, scope, purpose, general requirements of nutrient management plans, identification

of concentrated animal operations, and then a section on plan content.

The board expects to continue on the proposals in more depth at the next scheduled meeting, set for April 13, also in Room 309 of the PDA headquarters building in Harrisburg.

As part of consideration for regulations, board members were also given a draft of animal equivalent units for livestock; a background paper on the Pennsylvania Technical Guide, which is the primary reference for the Soil Conservation Service; and copies of standards for "waste storage ponds," as contained in the technical guide.

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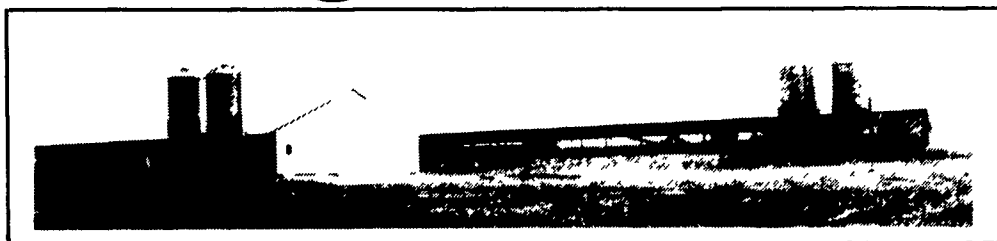


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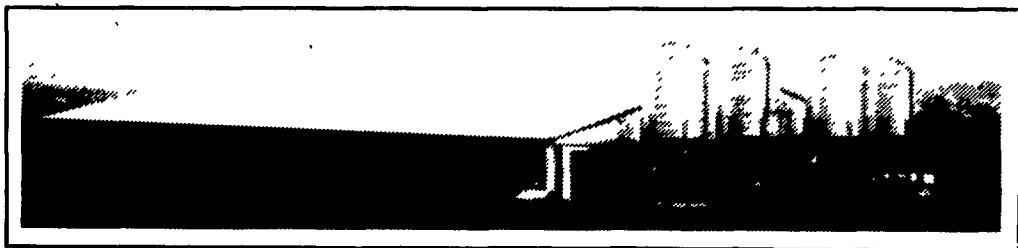


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