

Nutrient Management Advisory Board Nears Final Draft

(Continued from Page A1)

has been working with commission staff to draft proposed regulations.

To date, there has been little that has kept the board from working to develop the regulations. Winter storms during early 1994 caused the board to cancel a meeting and temporarily pressured staff to keep the momentum. Also, despite a drastic change in the administration of state government and the resulting uncertainty, the board has continued to work to develop regulations.

A goal set in 1993 was to have nutrient management regulations proposed by last July, and finalized by July this year.

As it appears, the advisory board is expected to have a final draft of proposed regulations ready for the commission at least by the end of May.

Discussion during Wednesday's meeting of the board resulted in a rough estimation that a final set of proposed regulations most likely will be available for board approval during its May meeting.

The next meeting of the advisory board is set for April 19, and the possibility was held out during Wednesday's meeting that if members can get clean copies of the draft to review, as well as agreeable definitions and wording in two areas, the board could possibly approve a draft. Though that scenario is less likely.

Debate Wednesday was somewhat controversial dealing with the frequency of review of nutrient management plans.

In effect, a nutrient management plan is nothing more than a plan for

using nutrients followed up with an accounting system. The goal of the plan is to control the flow of nutrients, nitrogen in this case, so as to nearly as possible prevent abnormal losses from the farm into the surrounding environment.

The proposal of the majority of the board is to require an official review of a nutrient management plan once every three years. However, an argument was made that the mandatory review should be annual because a nutrient management plan is dynamic and because conditions and manure use can vary widely every year.

The majority of the board, however, expressed the opinion that a three-year interval would better suit because current crop rotations generally use a three-year cycle for major crops, and it was also expressed that requiring annual reviews of all with plans would create a nightmare for those trying to keep track of who has complied with the requirement.

Except for a handful or less of issues still needing to be resolved, the board has drafted language to cover all the areas required under the Act, and those which resulted out of necessity to make the regulations understandable, fair and workable.

The regulations fall under Title 25, Environmental Resources, State Conservation Commission, Subchapter D, Chapter 83.

Regulations are created under an outline system that uses chapters, subchapters, and is further broken down through normal outline procedures, depending on the amount of clarity needed to cover an issue.

Under the working draft regulations, there are 18 different subchapters, which are relatively few considering existing regulations covering many other governed activities.

Although the wording of the proposed set of regulations is to be completely redrafted to reflect the inclusion of rules for voluntary nutrient management plans, and also to make the terms more concise and consistent, it may be helpful to review the subchapter titles for understanding what is the general range of issues being considered under the draft regulations.

General Requirements: Definitions; Scope; Purpose and Applicability of Requirements.

Nutrient Management Plans: General Requirements; Identification of Concentrated Animal Operations.

Plan Content Requirements: Scope of Plan; Content of Plans; Identification of Farms and Acreage; Summary of Nutrient Management Plan.

Nutrient Application: Determination of Available Nutrients; Determination of Nutrients Needed For Crop Production; Determination of Nutrient Application Rates; Nutrient Application Procedures.

Alternative Uses For Excess Manure: Alternative Manure Utilization Plans.

Manure Management: Manure Management.

Storm Water Runoff Control: Storm Water Runoff Control.

Implementation Schedule: Implementation Schedule.

Additional Plan Content Requirements For CAOs: Excess Manure Utilization Plans For CAOs

Record Keeping and Informational Requirements: Record Keeping Relating to Application of Nutrients; Alternative Manure Utilization Record Keeping; Exported Manure Informational Packets.

Additional Record Keeping and Informational Requirements for CAOs: Record Keeping for Manure Transfers from CAOs; Exported Manure Informational Packets for Distribution by CAOs.

Minimum Standards For Manure Storage Facilities.

Plan Review and Implementation: Initial Plan Review and Approval; Plan Implementation.

Plan Amendments and Transfers: Plan Amendments; Amendments Due to Unforeseen Circumstances; Plan Transfers.

Contagious Disease Emergencies: Manure Management In Emergency Situations.

Financial Assistance: Applicant Eligibility; Condition for Receipt of Financial Assistance; Financial Assistance Criteria; Application Procedure; Eligible Costs; Loans; Loan Guarantees; Grants; Grants and Loans; Funding Limitations; Implementation and Reporting; Delegation of Financial Assistance.

Delegation to Local Agencies

Other Planning Provisions: Compliance Plans

Brown Swiss Calf Sale

FREDERICK, Md. — The Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss Calf sale has been set for Saturday, April 29, at the Frederick Fairgrounds, and there's still time to consign a calf.

According to Cindy Warner, a member of the sale committee, the deadline to consign a calf is Friday, March 24, in order to complete the sale catalog in time for potential buyers to review.

The sale is set to start at 10:30 a.m. and Warner said, "We are looking for a strong group of calves that combine a unique blend of production and sound type. This sale has been a great place to buy a 4-H project (calf) and has also provided some top-pedigreed calves for the merchandising and investment buyer."

In other news, the Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss Association has

scheduled its annual meeting for 7 p.m., March 25, at New Midway fire hall, also in Frederick County.

An election of officers, a business meeting, a review of the calf sale and a special guest speaker are among the activities on the agenda.

The guest speaker is to be Donald Leishear, of Damascus, Md., who is to talk about his trip to Nicaragua.

Also, those interested in the Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss Futurity, won last year by an entry by Gary Mase, of Lebanon, Pa., should be aware that it is soon approaching.

For more information about the calf sale, meeting, or futurity, call either Warner at (301) 371-5206; Howard Flemming at (301) 475-3440; or Harold Long, (301) 271-7577.

KING CONSTRUCTION CO. - Specializing In Free-Stall Barns! Heifer Barns And Parlors

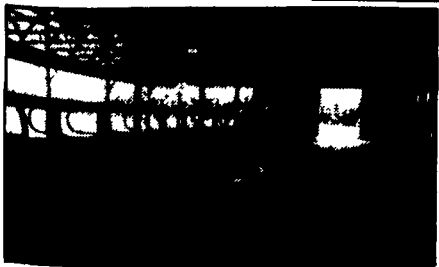


6 Row Freestall Barn

Heifer & Beef
Barn Featuring
Ventilated
Curtains



8 ft. Deep Pit with Waffle
Slats & Rubber Dust Mattresses.



3 Row
Freestall
Barn



WE BUILD IN PA, MD, DE & NJ

KING CONSTRUCTION CO.

601 Overly Grove Rd., New Holland, PA 17557
(717) 354-4740 • Ph# Van Lieu Home: (717) 259-9077

WARNING!

An odorless, colorless,
invisible--and costly--
forage thief!

You can't see it--and you can't stop it. Storage losses in forage can steal your valuable crop--how much is lost depends upon how you store your feed:

- Tower Silos have Up to 8% loss*
- Bunkers have Up to 45% loss**

If the average difference in feed lost between tower silos and bunkers is 30%, then storage of 1000 tons will mean 300 tons MORE lost in a bunker. If silage is valued at \$30 per ton, the additional losses from bunker storage would be \$9000 a year.

For information on losses for all types of crop storage methods, contact the Crop Storage Institute for your free copy of "Methods of Crop Storage" and "Know the Facts."

Crop Storage Institute
219 N. 4th St. P. O. Box 560
Lafayette, Indiana 47902-0560

**Dry Matter Retention in Silage Storage Units," Marshfield Exp. Station, 1983
** "Keeping Air Out of Bunkers Is The Key," Hoards Dairyman, March 25, 1992