

# Ag Secretary Approves First Nutrient Plan

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time to be promulgated and approved. They went into effect Oct. 1.

Previously, the only farms with nutrient management plans developed them at the behest of a lender seeking to protect its investment in the farm, or those participating in the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Plans are to be mandatory for high-density livestock farms, and voluntary for low-density lives-

tock farms.

High-density farms are determined according to the total weight of the livestock raised on the farm and the amount of acreage suitable for accepting manure for use as a nutrient in raising crops, including pasture grasses.

By law, the threshold stocking rate is 2,000 pounds of livestock or poultry per acre of land that can accept manure, including pasture, to be considered a farm requiring a



From the left, Lancaster County Commissioner sits with state Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr. who signs the first official nutrient management plan, while Don Robinson, manager of the Lancaster County Conservation District awaits his turn.

## Donough Champion

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### MANHEIM FARM SHOW STEER SHOW RESULTS

#### MARKET STEER FFA

Lightweight (1154-1172 lbs.): 1. Jeremy Kready. 2. Amy Becker. 3. Nicole Eisenhauser.

Medium Weight (1214-1277 lbs.): 1. Travis Donough. 2. Pam Lehman. 3. Derrick Bollinger.

Light Heavyweight (1302-1366 lbs.): 1. Loy Wolgemuth. 2. Lee Stoltzfus. 3. Tracy Zimmerman.

Heavyweight (1417-1470 lbs.): 1. Travis Hartranft. 2. Amy Bollinger. 3. Ryan Zimmerman.

#### FFA CHAMPION

Travis Donough  
RESERVE  
Loy Wolgemuth

#### 4-H

Lightweight (1088-1137 lbs.): 1. Joelynn Donough. 2. John Hess. 3. Chris Hess.

#### 4-H CHAMPION

Ryan Groff  
RESERVE  
Jason Rohrer

#### SUPREME CHAMPION STEER

Travis Donough  
RESERVE  
Ryan Groff

#### FARM SHOW PREVIEW STEER

Travis Donough

#### SHOWMANSHIP

Juniors: 1. Chris Hess. 2. Jessica Rohrer. 3. Joelynn Donough.

Intermediate: 1. John Hess. 2. Jason Rohrer. 3. Ryan Donough.

Seniors: 1. Blaine Brown. 2. Travis Donough. 3. Ryan Groff.

nutrient management plan.

That threshold was developed because it represents a level at which excess nitrogen is being produced beyond the capability of plants to use it. The goal is to balance nitrogen uses with nitrogen production.

At its essence, a current farm nutrient management plan outlines how the farming operation intends to utilize its animal manures and prevent it from washing into waterways.

The plans generally contains a description of the farming opera-

tion, and how, where and when plant nutrients are to be used: facts and details about storm water management; erosion control devices; manure application methods and handling practices; crops to be raised; and any other considerations that affect the production of, and use of, manure and nutrients

on the farm.

The agricultural community has been integral in developing and supporting the state law, as well as developing the details of the program around which the regulations were composed.

By being proactive, and sitting down with some one-time or sometime adversaries in the environmental-protectionist community, sharing information and ideas, community leaders and representatives were able to develop mutually agreeable and understandable regulations to carry out the state's Nutrient Management Act.

The operation at Greystone Manor Farms is considered low-density and the state's first plan was a voluntary one.

The regulations were created through four years of work by the 15-member state Nutrient Management Advisory Board, which is to continue to exist, though the bulk of its deadline work is now done.

It was reported Thursday that it is believed that volunteers from the agricultural, agribusiness, environmental, lending, and community-at-large sectors donated 15,000 to 20,000 manhours toward creating the regulations.

Signing the first nutrient management plan in Lancaster County is also symbolic because Lancaster County is the most farming intensive county in the state, and has been blamed for being one of the largest of Pennsylvania's contributors of nutrients into the Chesapeake Bay.

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