

Adams Beef Farmer Has Nutrient Restraints And Management Plans

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Equivalent Units (AEU's) or 2,000 pounds of live animal weight per acre must develop a nutrient management plan for their operation "

Mike explained that he has too many animals for the acres he has so he must "export all of the manure off my ground " The act mandates that he must have a nutrient management plan

But, because "they cost some money" Mike explained, he will attend three classes, and after completing and passing tests on what he learned, will draw up his own plan "Mine is pretty simple I have to export it all (manure)," he said

McCollum explained that "The Plan Development Incentives Program is a cost share program providing funds to existing livestock or poultry operations to offset the cost of developing a nutrient management plan under the act "

However, "Only agricultural operations that were producing livestock or poultry as of Oct 1, 1997 are eligible to receive cost-share funding under this program," he said

Mike, whose farm is designated to a Concentrated Animal Operation—all farms with the CAO designation must develop the nutrient management plan—has funding available to him to develop the plan through Sept 30

Farmers who are not

required to develop a plan, but want to volunteer to do so, are eligible for funding through same date

In both categories funding is available to "existing animal operations for development of a nutrient management plan under the act by a commercial planner or farmer certified to write a nutrient management plan," McCollum said

The nutrient specialist further explained the funding stating "A 'one-time' cost share payment will be provided to the operator for costs associated with the development of an approved nutrient management plan for the operation."

Cost share payment will be provided according to the following guidelines

Commercially developed plans—0-50 acres, 75 percent of actual costs not to exceed \$250 per operation and 50 or more acres, 75 percent of actual cost not to exceed \$4 per acre of \$800 per operation

Individually (farmer) developed plans—0-50 acres \$200 per operation, and 50 or more acres \$3 per acre not to exceed \$800 per operation

A program application must be approved before a payment is provided, McCollum said

To participate, according to McCollum, the farmer should contact the local conservation district or state Department of Agriculture for an application,



Mike Riser and his wife, Josie Riser, who is holding 14-month-old Hannah Riser, stand on the concrete slab installed at their new steer barn. The couple received 80 percent Chesapeake Bay Program funding to construct the slab which restricts runoff from the barn.

complete it and submit it to the conservation district office or the state ag department at the following address. Pa Department of Agriculture, Nutrient Management Program, Bureau of Plant Industry, 2301 N Cameron St., Rm G11, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408.



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