

# PDA Announces Nutrient Management Training, Certification

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — The state Department of Agriculture and Penn State University have scheduled a series of training sessions to provide background knowledge for those seeking to qualify as a certified nutrient management specialists.

The series has already started, with the first class held April 21 in Harrisburg at the PDA Building, dealing with soil fertility.

However, scheduled for May, June and July are five additional topic sessions (one a two-day session).

The program series was designed to provide a solid background of information to prepare those seeking certification as a Pennsylvania nutrient management specialist.

Most of the series is open to all. The last two (a training session and an examination session) are mandatory for those seeking state certification.

### Manure Management Workshop

On Tuesday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., a manure management workshop is scheduled to be held in Room 202 of the PDA Building in Harrisburg, located along Cameron Street, across from the state Farm Show Complex.

The workshop is to include discussion on manure types and production calculations, manure variability, manure sampling, nutrient contents and availability factors, long-term manure nutrient contributions and environmental impacts. Attendees should have attended the soil fertility school or already have basic soil fertility knowledge.

Coffee and donuts are provided, though lunch is the responsibility of the attendee.

### Barnyard Management Field Assessment

A two-day workshop, held in

cooperation with the conservation districts of Blair and Cambria counties on June 2 and June 3, is to provide training on concepts and methods used to perform barnyard and field assessments for Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The program has been modeled after a successful program held September in Dauphin County. The target audience includes nutrient plan writers, reviewers and agricultural consultants.

Most of the program is to be held outdoors, therefore attendees should dress appropriately.

On June 2, the session starts at 9:30 a.m., at a Blair County location that will be announced in the registration receipt.

After lunch, the group is to travel by bus to a nearby dairy farm.

Discussion is to include nutrient planning, manure sampling and variability, Farm-A-Syst, field crops evaluation, field conservation practices, and barnyard management.

On June 3, the group is to begin the workshop in Cambria County, near Ebensburg. The day entails travel to another dairy farm to discuss manure handling, spreader calibration, manure storage siting, setbacks and waivers, and stream-bank stabilization.

There is a \$15 per person registration fee. The fee covers the cost for both days, and includes two lunches, breaks and bus transportation. Group size is limited to 50 participants. Deadline to register is May 18.

Registration for this workshop is different from the rest.

For this workshop, registration is being coordinated by the Blair County Conservation District, 1407 Blair St., Holidaysburg, Pa., 16648. Phone (814) 696-0877; fax (814) 696-9981. Make checks payable to Blair County Conservation District.

Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation letter including a map of meeting location(s) and a list of motels in the Ebensburg area.

For any more registration information on this program, call the district.

### Soil Health Management

A new program is being introduced in a one-day workshop on soil health and management, to be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., June 11, at the Penn State Agronomy Farm at Rockspring (where Ag Progress Days are held in August).

The program is to include an introduction to soil classification, soil structure, soil characteristics, and soil health evaluation techniques.

There will be an opportunity for participants to observe these conditions during a field walk that includes climbing into soil pits and conducting soil health tests. Participants should wear appropriate clothing.

There is an \$8 registration fee, payable on June 11, that includes the cost of lunch and coffee breaks. CCA credits will be available.

### Pre-Certification Training

Those seeking to qualify as a nutrient management plan writer or reviewer need to attend official pre-certification training, according to Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act (Act 6).

It is mandatory in order to be certified in Pennsylvania as a nutrient management technician.

The next such official session is scheduled to be held over one-and-a-half days — June 17-18 — at Room 118, in the ASI Building of the Penn State Main Campus at University Park in State College.

The training includes an introduction into the requirements of Act 6, the elements of a nutrient management plan, an introduction to the rules and regulations, the implementation guidelines, environmental limitations, what to do about excess manures, and training on storage standards.

Attendance at both days training is required.

The program runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 17, and from 9 a.m. to noon, June 18.

There is no registration fee. Lunch is the responsibility of the participant.

### Certification Examination

State examinations for those seeking certification for commercial, public and individual nutrient management specialists are scheduled to be held from 8 a.m. to noon, July 16, in Room 118, of the Penn State ASI Building at University Park.

The examination fee is \$50, for those seeking commercial and public certifications. The fee must be paid prior to the examination. Checks should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

There is no examination fee for those seeking certification to write nutrient management plans for themselves (individual certification).

Advance registration is required for all.

For all workshops, except the barnyard management and field assessment program, registration can be done through facsimile at (717) 783-3275.

Registrations can also be mailed to: Nutrient Management Section, Pa. Department of Agriculture, Room G-11, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408.

## Bradford County FFA Honors Members

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In the junior public speaking category, Megan Kingsley captured the judges' attention with her presentation on maple syrup production.

The banquet also provides a forum for presenting the county FFA degrees. This year 11 individuals received the recognition. They are, from Troy, Rindy Harkness, Loren Harkness, James Joiner, and Stephen Kovac; From Northeast Bradford, Monica Smith; and from Athens, Justin Arnold, Ryan Kingsley, Ryan Kinsman, Luke Nichols, Jackie Schriner, and Chad Garrison.

Honorary county degrees were also presented to individuals from the community who support the FFA program. Gertie Kingsley of Athens, Jerry Garrison of Athens, and Carolyn Moyer of Liberty

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Top FFA individuals were honored at the recent FFA banquet. Shown, from left, are Rindy Harknes, Loren Harkness, and Jackie Schriner. Rindy also received the Northeastern Farm Credit Award.



Other first place winners in many of the year's FFA contests are, from left, Keith Maneal, Northeast Bradford FFA; Rindy Harkness of Troy; Matt Irons of Northeast Bradford; Josh Ford of Northeast Bradford; Jason Lamphere of Troy; Jesse Darrow of Troy; and Loren Harkness of Troy.

## Nutrient Management Training Registration

DATE OF APPLICATION \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me for the following in the series of nutrient management workshops.

MANURE MANAGEMENT BACKGROUND May 19.....\_\_\_\_\_

BARNYARD MANAGEMENT FIELD ASSESSMENT June 2 & 3 (Send to Blair Co. Conservation District).....\_\_\_\_\_

SOIL HEALTH, MANAGEMENT June 11.....\_\_\_\_\_

PRE-CERTIFICATION TRAINING June 17, 18.....\_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION July 16.....\_\_\_\_\_

Send this form with appropriate fees to:

Nutrient Management Section  
Pa. Dept. of Agriculture  
Room G-11  
2301 N. Cameron St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408