

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — A two-day educational event featuring pesticide application, a dairy nutritional program, and a corn silage harvest equipment demonstration is scheduled for Nov. 16-17 in the Lebanon County area.

The event will begin at Zimmerman Farm Services, School Road, Bethel, on Tuesday, Nov. 16, from 10:30

a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Brubaker's Agronomics will present programs for pesticide credits. Miller Pro will have equipment to test nozzles (bring them along).

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, activities will begin at 10 a.m. at Tom and Shirley Krall's farm, two miles west of Schaefferstown on Rt. 419.

A field equipment demonstra-

tion will be held from 10 to noon. The following equipment will be demonstrated in harvesting an 8-acre corn silage field:

- John Deere forage harvester
- Class 840 forage harvester
- Gehl CB1275 harvester with crop processor
- New Holland FX25 harvester with roller mill
- Miller Pro forage wagon
- Gehl 980 forage wagon
- Miller Pro blower
- 2 Ford/New Holland tractors, Genesis 8670 and 7740.

After lunch, the dairy nutrition program will be held from 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tim Lehman, Agway nutritionist, will talk about maximizing butterfat, rumen health, and milk production. Carl and Dan Brandt, who have the highest butterfat herd in Lebanon County, will also be sharing.

For more information and

reservations, call Tom Krall (717) 274-5891 or Zimmerman Farm Service (717) 933-4114 or Tulpehocken High School (717) 933-4114.

Tulpehocken Adult Young

Farmers and Miller Pro is hosting the event held at Zimmerman Farm Service. Cedar Crest Young Farmers is hosting the event at the Krall Farm. All local farmers are invited to attend.

USDA NRSC, EPA To Hold Meeting

(Continued from Page A1)

Janet Oertly, USDA NRCS state conservationist (top agency representative in Pennsylvania), headquartered in Harrisburg, said the proposal is not for new regulations.

"The strategy does not contain new regulations, and the strategy itself is not a rule," she stated in a news release.

"The strategy simply recognizes and provides for how the voluntary and regulatory aspects of our

respective agencies were set up to operate."

The strategy is an outline of how the two organizations are to coordinate efforts to work cooperatively with their existing authorities to fulfill goals within the Clinton Administration's Clean Water Action Plan.

According to a news release, "The strategy establishes a national expectation that all animal feeding operations develop and implement comprehensive nutrient management plans by the year 2008.

"These plans include manure handling and storage, application of manure to the land, record keeping, feed management, integration with other conservation measures, and other manure utilization options."

Pennsylvania led the nation when the agriculture sector worked proactively with national and regional environmental organization representatives to develop a mutually acceptable Nutrient Management Act.

In the meantime, the EPA issued its proposal for national regulations and permitting of "concentrated animal feeding operations" (CAFOs), which challenged the structure of Pennsylvania's existing Nutrient Management Act regulations.

A proposal for modifications of Pennsylvania's program to comply with the EPA CAFO regulations is still being considered.

The Pennsylvania program recognizes high density livestock operations by setting a threshold of the ratio of livestock weight to land available to raise plants that can use livestock generated manure nutrients.

Pennsylvania's program also deals with the raising of livestock, not merely the feeding of them. (Horse boarding operations and dog kennels, for example, are not considered under Pennsylvania's nutrient management regulations.)

The EPA program has slightly different considerations for what constitutes a threat to the nation's waterways, and has authority to require certain farms to have permits under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection has been working to create new types of NPDES permits that can be used with the Nutrient Management Act to comply with EPA regulations.

One of the problems with complying with the federal CAFO rules is with the NPDES permits. This is because, under Pennsylvania's system, all nutrient management plans are approved through the authority and expertise of the State Conservation Commission and conservation districts, and are not subject to hearings or comment by the general public.

The possibility of public hearings being associated with the issuances of NPDES permits is an matter of concern for agriculturalists, mainly because it could provide an unnecessary opportunity for those opposed to animal agriculture to legally harass farmers.

Following the CAFO proposal, the USDA/EPA Unified Joint Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) was released, with the explanation that it not a proposal for new regulations, but for a program for using the authorities granted under existing laws and regulations in order to ensure that livestock operations are not polluting waterways with nutrients from animal manure.

According to the AFO news release, "In Pennsylvania, (the expectations of the unified strategy) coordinates well with the state's Nutrient Management Act (Act 6), which establishes minimum criteria for nutrient management plans.

"Act 6 requires concentrated animal operations to develop and implement nutrient management plans. Five to 10 percent of Pennsylvania's farms fall into that category," according to the news release. "The other 90 percent are encouraged to develop and implement nutrient management plans on a voluntary basis."



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