

EPA, USDA Officials Present

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which was essentially read by the presenters with some common language explanation where considered necessary, "USDA and EPA will develop a virtual center with the goal of creating a single point of reference for both agencies, the individual producers, the livestock industry, and the general public. ...

"The virtual center will consist of a website to be maintained by personnel from both USDA and EPA where research results, analyses, comments and responses to the research and scholarly papers on the research project or related information would be available to all."

Also to be established is a national AFO information and research working group comprised, in theory, of staff from 'appropriate' offices of the USDA and EPA, and any other federal agencies that may be able to provide help.

Also of concern in the Unified Strategy is encouraging industry leadership in helping farm operators to comply and attain nutrient management planning and controls.

The gist of this issue seems to be how to get the larger controlling industries to exercise subtle internal pressure on farm owners to voluntarily comply with nutrient management.

"An example is the Comprehensive Environmental Framework for Pork Production Operations, recommended by the National Environmental Dialogue on Pork Production," the document states.

(Just as Pennsylvania agriculture aggressively and proactively helped create and support nutrient management laws in order to avoid a probable future of problem laws created mainly under the influence of anti-agricultural forces, some of the commodity groups and sub-groups have also adopted internal codes of environmental conduct, in an effort to preempt government intrusion and outsider oversight.)

"The National Pork Producers Council is recommending that the framework would apply to all commercial pork production operations. The poultry industry is currently conducting a similar dialogue. These industry-led initiatives can significantly increase the voluntary adoption of CNMPs to

protect water quality."

Along this same line, the document states, "USDA and EPA will work with industry, in particular integrators, to identify opportunities for greater industry involvement in pollution prevention. This could include the integrators providing technical, educational, and financial assistance to producers and/or requiring CNMPs in contracts with producers."

Other suggested actions for stimulating "industry leadership" include setting up manure brokering networks; establishing an AFO owner/operator peer network; work with industry (starting in 2001) to spread information on revised NPDES regulations; and encourage dialogue on the benefits

of using manure, fertilizer and human waste water treatment sludge (biosolids).

Further, the strategy suggests using commodity producer check-off programs — designed to increase consumption through better marketing and promotion — as a means to raise money for conservation purposes, as authorized under the 1996 Farm Bill.

Working on getting all agencies that are involved in nutrient management planning together on sharing information is another issue of concern addressed in the strategy and discussed during last week's meeting.

This issue addresses a major concern among agricultural

producers — the privacy of information.

While USDA information gathered on voluntary planning is not to be shared with the general public, the operations requiring EPA NPDES permits are public record.

While there is no proposed attempt to change that, the gist of the proposal is for all parties to be aware of sensitivities.

The seventh issue is performance measures and accountability.

(Continued next week with comments of some of those who testified.)

Maryland DHIA

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Wm & Kathleen Schrodel #2	145	70.6	Holstein
Caw-Croft Daoru	77	69.4	Holstein
Keith Dixon	10	68.0	Holstein
Brick House FM Inc	77	67.9	Holstein
Clover Leaf Farm	63	67.0	Holstein
Howard Mchenry	219	66.9	Holstein
Fair Hill Farm Inc.	249	65.9	Holstein
Marva Ass'n			
Glad-Mar Farm Inc.	157	65.5	Holstein

Beneva Farms	69	75.1	Holstein
Mendelsohn Terrace Farm	144	70.3	Holstein
Rudell C Beall & Sons	168	69.7	Holstein
H.M. & T.C. Ensor	206	66.6	Holstein
Pot. Val. Ass'n			
True Vine Holsteins	77	76.8	Holstein
Brookdale Holsteins	88	69.6	Holstein
Cessna Bros. Farm	67	65.1	Holstein
Queen Anne's			
Benjamin Stanton	64	77.3	Holstein
Pintail Point Farm	45	76.0	Holstein
L J & W E Palmatary	190	73.6	Holstein
Lester C. Jones, Inc	969	71.3	Holstein
Boone Brothers	162	68.7	Holstein
McFarland Donnier & Wayne	134	68.4	Holstein
Donald W. Skinner	121	68.0	Holstein
Charles R. Patterson	104	65.7	Holstein
Wintacres	83	65.5	Holstein
F & J Moore	133	65.3	Holstein
Talbot			
Wm Brnsfield	71	69.9	Holstein
Washington			
Kevin & Marlin Martin	85	81.7	Holstein
Brad & Cathy Wiles	83	80.8	Holstein
Pryor Brothers	91	74.7	Holstein
Michael Forstythe	28	72.8	Holstein
Magna-Vista Farm	91	71.8	Holstein
Creek Bound Farm	93	71.2	Holstein
Arthur Rhoderick	254	69.7	Holstein
Debaugh Farms	103	69.2	Holstein
DMK Partnership	89	67.0	Holstein
Afton Spring Dairy	57	66.9	Holstein
Earl Grove Jr	118	66.4	Holstein

HIGH HERDS ECM BY BREED

County Ass'n	Herd Name	# Cows in Herd	ECM
Howard	David & James Patrick	57	66.5
Washington	Ralph W. Shank	107	64.7
Frederick	Vales-Pride Farm	35	55.2
Baltimore	William Wams Farm	13	54.0
Frederick	Homestead Farm	19	36.2

BROWN SWISS

County Ass'n	Herd Name	# Cows in Herd	ECM
Harford	Green-Castle Swiss	10	77.1
Frederick	K. Scott & Judy Hood	30	76.8
Frederick	Dublin Hills Swiss	71	69.7
Frederick	Fir-Thorne-B	49	68.6
Carroll	Garstlyn Brown Swiss	36	67.9
Cecil	Joy & Tom Crothers	11	67.3
Frederick	Dwayne & Miriam Bell	80	63.5
Frederick	Vales-Pride Farm	10	60.4
Carroll	Ryan Bell	10	59.4
Frederick	Harold Long Brown Swiss	26	55.5

GUERNSEY

County Ass'n	Herd Name	# Cows in Herd	ECM
Cecil	Mt. Ararat Farms	44	65.6
Washington	Crown Stone Farm	70	61.3
Queen Anne's	William B. Messick III	17	58.7
Frederick	Walnut Ridge Farm	89	57.1
Cecil	Pleasant View Gold Farm	37	56.3
Kent	Keith Dixon	27	54.2
Washington	Cletus & Janice Frey	30	50.9
Frederick	Anovadale Guernseys	34	50.7
Kent	Dogwood Lane Farm	70	47.4
Frederick	Three Brooks Farm	81	40.8

JERSEY

County Ass'n	Herd Name	# Cows in Herd	ECM
Cecil	Tol-Je-So Farm	21	72.8
Carroll	Queen Acres Jerseys	145	72.0
Garrett	Paul & Naomi Pfersheim	28	64.7
Washington	Michael Forsythe	13	62.0
Carroll	Mayer's Stoney Point	15	59.3
Frederick	Jersey Spring Farm	75	57.7
Frederick	Springfield Dairy	38	56.2
Carroll	Ash & Bear	16	54.4
Washington	Willow Spring Farm	40	50.8
Frederick	Glenn Beard	10	50.6

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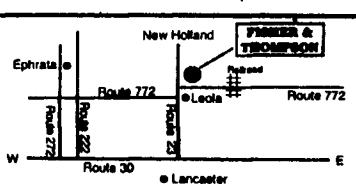
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