Environmentalists

(Continued from Page A26) quality agencies, not NRCS or conservation districts."

Garber also complained that public financial assistance for CAFOs should be denied.

He said that the costs for adequately addressing the environmental risks associated with high-density

farming operations that depend upon imported feed should not be supported in any way with public funds.

"In the case of contract production, responsibility for compliance should rest with those that own the animals and the feed," he said. Garber also said that the posi-

tion of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is that each CAFO farming operation ought to be required to have its own customized permit, called an "individual" permit, instead of a more generic 'general" permit that applies to all CAFOs.

Individual permits can réquire special circumstances be met specific to each farm, whereas a gen-

cral permit would require a broader standard of compliance for the permit.

In addition, Garber said that USDA and EPA need to specify performance measures to be achieved by the comprehensive nutrient management plans proposed for all AFOs (livestock operations).

Further, he said that in cases where minimum standards for

performance measures would be more restrictive than state law, that federal law ought to supercede the state in authority and the farm be required to comply with a federal standard.

"Here in Pennsylvania," Garber said, "our nutrient management regulations are not adequate for CAFOs. Our regulations do not address phosphorus."

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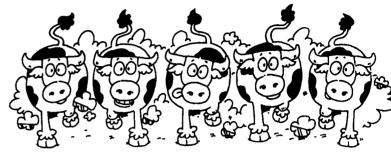
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