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Education and outreach is still a very important tool for the various agricultural agencies to use in helping everyone understand just what the nutrient management law is all about.

In conclusion, Act 6 not only impacts farmers, but everyone closely related to the agricultural community. Farmers have learned that if their animal numbers or crop acreage changes drastically, they should contact the conservation district to help determine if their farm is now considered a concentrated animal operation and subject to Act 6 regulations.

The general public has learned of the regulations and knows that there are certain setbacks and spreading regulations that pertain to concentrated animal operations. Hopefully, both sides can work together to create a positive outcome.

Communicating with affected neighbors

It is essential to have good communications with any affected parties neighboring the facility. Based on the evaluation of the site characteristics, those local residents most likely to be affected by the facility should be identified and contacted.

This can be done on a one-on-one basis, or through a group meeting to describe the possible project and to discuss any concerns. In this way, the operator can gauge public acceptance of the proposed operation.

Agricultural security areas

Establishing an Agricultural Security Area to include the operation will provide the operator with a level of assurance that area residents accept and understand the landuse established for this location. Producers should contact their county planning office to obtain information related to forming an Agriculture Security Area.

Community dispute resolution

The PDA has established a model that can be used by local communities to address disputes related to the siting of animal production facilities. A copy of this model for community dispute resolution can be obtained by contacting the state office in Harrisburg.

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