

Manure Storage Must Conform to Guidelines

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania livestock managers considering installing a new manure storage structure or manure lagoon need to be aware that there are Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations that cover the design and construction of these facilities.

According to regulations found under Chapter 91, General Provisions, section 91.36, any animal manure storage facility built after Jan. 29, 2000 must be designed and operated in accordance with

DEP's publication titled "Manure Management for Environmental Protection," and the Pennsylvania Technical Guide standards. For semi-solid or liquid manure, these facilities must be designed, constructed, and certified by a Pennsylvania registered professional engineer. These designs must be site-specific and linked to a nutrient management plan that addresses adequate storage capacity.

Recently, the department discovered several manure facilities built after Jan. 29, 2000, that were not certified by a professional engineer. DEP strongly encourages farmers to contact their local county conservation district prior to constructing a manure storage facility. In this way, the farmer can become familiar with the requirement for certification and assure that it is constructed per the regulations.

Information, in the form of a fact sheet, is available on properly dealing with manure storage and certification. This information can be found in the Manure Management for Environmental Protection publication, commonly referred to as the Manure Manual. Copies of the fact sheet or the manual can be obtained by calling the DEP Southcentral Regional Office, Water Quality Operations Section at (717) 705-4707.

Study Confirms

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downer animals that cannot be marketed.

"One possibility why modern, heavily muscled pigs seem to be more prone to a severe reaction to stress may be that more muscle mass can create more lactic acid and generate more heat," says Gonyou. "These variables can lead to greater incidences of pigs becoming downers. Also, using an electric prod to hurry pigs along and crowding them can have a severe effect. You need to know how your pigs are being handled on your operation, on the trucks, and at the plants to ensure proper care."

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