



Title: Policy Education for State Decision-making about CAFO Rules in the Mid-Atlantic Region

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Region: Mid-Atlantic

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Theme: Water Policy and Economics

Situation: Federal clean water rules for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) were recently changed for the first time in 25 years. The changes are significant, complex and have uncertain implications for producers and stakeholders to water quality issues. State governments must now respond by changing their CAFO rules and programs. Significant differences exist in states' current rules in the Mid-Atlantic Region but some commonalities exist. Informed participation and input by producers and other stakeholders into state-level CAFO rule making depends on their understanding of the new rules and the process for public input and decision-making. An opportunity existed for Cooperative Extension to contribute by simplifying and explaining the new EPA CAFO rules, revision process and timeline, and identifying producers likely to be affected, and possible implications. For the information to be utilized the proposed education products had to be prepared quickly and adapted to the needs of the four states in the region.

Objectives: a) To increase producers' and other interested parties awareness and understanding of the major changes in the federal CAFO rules, how these changes compared to current state rules; which producers will likely be affected; the timeline and process for change in state rules; and opportunities for public input; b) To motivate producers and other stakeholders to participate in state CAFO rule development; and c) To motivate producers to consider possible future CAFO rules and the possible costs or other consequences of rule changes in decision-making about their farms.

Methods: Two products were produced in Spring 2003: a) "New Federal CAFO Rules: Which Pennsylvania Livestock and Poultry Operations Will Be Affected?" Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences publication, April 2003, by Alyssa Dodd, Charles Abdalla, Les Lanyon and Robert Graves. This publication is also available in electronic form on the internet: <http://agenvpolicy.aers.psu.edu>. b) A template with no state-specific information was created in Microsoft Word and distributed electronically in May 2003 to the other participating states in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Quality Coordination Project via the internet and on a CD that was mailed to the project's Steering Committee. Guidance for adaptation was provided to Steering Committee members as well.

Partnerships: Faculty and staff beyond those on the project's team (i.e. PIs) in several other academic departments contributed to document development and review. USDA - Agricultural Research Service (ARS) researchers assisted in publication development and review. Personnel at EPA Region III and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources reviewed the document and supported its development and use. Development of the publication contributed to enhanced networks and partnerships with state/federal government. An example was use of three Penn State faculty PIs as speakers at a National CAFO Roundtable workshop for state water quality permitting agency staff hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in October 2003.

Research: Faculty authors have research and extension appointments and accumulated knowledge from their formal Hatch and/or externally funded research projects was used in preparing the content of the publication and in devising a strategy for regional adaptation. One researcher who helped develop and reviewed the publication was from the USDA – Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Research findings of other land grant universities and that of federal and state agencies were used in developing the publication's content.

Resources: Resources leveraged would be time of non-Penn State faculty and staff that reviewed the publication and external agencies and organizations that assisted in distribution. An important example of the latter would be the Pennsylvania DEP CAFO Stakeholders' Workgroup that has provided input to the agency in revising the publication. The publication was distributed to all group members in April 2003.

Results: Distribution of the Pennsylvania-specific Publication in Pennsylvania - The poster will summarize output by describing the number of publications distributed and to whom in (hard copy and internet downloads). Newspapers and their location that carried the news releases will be identified along with audience types. Workshops – Use of the publication's information in workshops and conferences will be summarized in terms of numbers of producers, other stakeholders, and decision-makers that received the publication or its contents in other form (overheads, PowerPoint slides). Regional Template Use – The adaptation of the template for use in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia faculty will be summarized. Challenges that collaborating faculty in other states faced in adapting and using the publication will be presented. Lessons learned about the regional adaptation process will be identified and presented for the benefit of other project leaders. Distribution in Other Mid-Atlantic States. For each state where the template was adapted, the number of publications distributed will be presented. OUTCOMES-short-term - Greater awareness and understanding of the CAFO rule change among Penn State faculty and extension staff, producers, other stakeholders and key decision-makers at the state level in Pennsylvania. Greater visibility of Extension with Pennsylvania and EPA Region III office. Awareness of Extension's ability to produce timely, relevant information on policy developments. OUTCOMES - Medium term. Greater involvement and influence of PSU faculty/staff in Pennsylvania DEP CAFO decision process and through October 2003 CAFO roundtable in education of water quality permitting agency staff in other states.



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