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Reducing Pollution Potential of Animal Feeding Operations

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Abstract:

Small to medium animal feeding operations tend to be located on sites that were convenient to water, shelter, or the farmstead. The pollution potential on these sites, particularly older sites, probably was not thought about or considered.

Our role has been to assist animal feeding operators in assessing the pollution potential of their feeding facility and recommend the best management practices (BMPs) needed to achieve the necessary pollution abatement.

Each facility was evaluated using a Significant Pollution Potential Assessment worksheet. The numerical value of the assessment determines the type and number of BMPs that need to be developed and implemented. These BMPs can include reducing the number of animals being fed; changing the feeding period; installing a vegetative buffer or increasing the size of an existing buffer; and installing a sediment basin and/or a lagoon. Conceptual drawings and management plans are developed for each cattle feed facility. This shows the livestock producer the types of BMPs that need to be implemented and the extent of the practices.

By implementing the conceptual drawings and plans for management changes, livestock producers can reduce the potential for water pollution from their facilities, and be in compliance with the state regulations.

In the last three years, conceptual drawings and management plans have been developed for 126 animal feeding operations. This involved implementing best management practices to reduce the pollution potential for 33,623 animal units. The success of this program has been built on the long-term commitment of extension in the watershed and the relationship of trust among the producers and local agency personnel.

Impact Statement:

In the last three years, conceptual drawings and management plans have been developed for 126 animal feeding operations. This involved implementing best management practices to reduce the pollution potential for 33,623 animal units or an average of 267 animal units per operation.

Category: Agricultural BMPs

Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation