

Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Program Newsletter

November 2005

<http://panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu>

Upcoming Trainings

- Plan Review Workshop (November 16, 2005)
- Certification Examination, PDA & Centre County (December 6, 2005)
- Introduction to Livestock Production Systems (January 18, 2006)
- Nutrient Management Orientation (February 21-22, 2006)
- Managing Manure Nutrients Workshop (March 15-16, 2006)
- Stormwater Management & RUSLE Workshop (March 28-29, 2006)
- Phosphorus Index Training (March 30, 2006)
- Plan Writing Workshop (April 5-6, 2006)
- ACA Evaluation Workshop (April 17-18, 2006)
- Plan Review Workshop (April 25, 2006)
- Certification Examination, PDA & Centre County (May 2, 2006)

Nutrient Management Conference

The Nutrient Management Conference has been rescheduled to take place on February 13 and 14, 2006. We had hoped to hold it sooner but there has been yet another holdup on securing final approval of the regulation package from the Commission. Therefore, we have had to delay it until then.

The good news is that we will have time to develop the standard plan, the standard Nutrient Balance Sheet and the Standard Importer and Broker agreements. We can then share and review those

products with you at the conference so you will have a heads up on the new program format.

I know that a number of you have questions that you would like to talk about now so that you can best do your job (either writing, reviewing, or implementing plans). Please feel free to gather specialists together in your area with similar issues and I, and other relevant program staff, will come out and meet with you to make sure you know the latest program news and to make sure you are going in the right direction. We have done this recently for some private sector folks, and also for some district reviewers in a region, and we would be glad to do that for any group who wants to make sure they are on the right track with the program. These smaller, informal meetings can be very fruitful in making the program more effective; I know I learn a lot at these meetings.

Doug Goodlander
Director of Nutrient Management Program
State Conservation Commission

Passage of New Nutrient Management Certification Regulations

The Department of Agriculture looks forward to the passage of the revised Nutrient Management Certification Regulations towards the end of 2005 with an expected effective date of January 1, 2006.

The main purposes of the regulation changes were to clarify some administrative procedures, streamline the certification process, and bring the nutrient management certification program in line with pending changes in the Nutrient Management Act Program.

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How To Contact Us

For more information on the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program contact:

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Nutrient Management Program
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717-772-5218
717-783-3275 (FAX)
Email: maucoin@state.pa.us
Web: <http://panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu>

Address Changes

In order to receive this newsletter, we must have a current email address. Please send all email and other address changes to Michael Aucoin (contact information above).

Newsletter Contributions

Comments, contribution of articles, or suggestions of topics or issues to be addressed in the newsletter are welcome at any time.
Jerry Martin, Editor

The main changes to the regulations that will affect a specialist's certification will be reflected in new certification fees and the amount of continuing education credits needed to renew certification.

Additionally, a new category for conservation district specialists was also defined which clarified their role in the plan development and review process.

What does this mean for our current Nutrient Management Specialists?

In regards to fees, if your nutrient management certification is expiring on December 31, 2005 and you pay your renewal fee prior to January 1, 2006 you may pay the old fee. After January 1, 2006 you will pay the new fee defined in the regulation.

For example, the Commercial renewal fee prior to January 1, 2006 would be \$100, but after January 1, 2006 it would be \$200.

New Triennial Fee Schedule:

Individual: \$15.00
Commercial: \$200.00
Public Review: \$25.00
Public Dual: \$50.00

These fees are contingent upon final publication of the revisions in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

In regards to continuing education credits, all specialists with final nutrient management certifications expiring on or after December 31, 2006 will need to adhere to the new continuing education credit amounts.

New Continuing Education Requirements:

Commercial and Public: 20 continuing education credits, with 5 of those 20 needing to be in Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture or State Conservation Commission sponsored courses.

Individual: Remains the same at 6 continuing education credits.

The Department encourages all specialists to read and be familiar with these new regulations.

Upon publication Final Nutrient Management Certification Regulations will be placed on the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program website.

Michael Aucoin
Certification & Education Specialist
PDA Nutrient Management Program

A Few Program Notes

I had the pleasure of meeting with several of the private sector consultants, as well as several conservation districts, in response to a request from them to help work through some tough issues. These meetings have taught me a lot about program issues and I wanted to take a couple minutes to review with you some take home points I got from these meetings that I hope will help you in your jobs.

Intensity of plan reviews: A plan review should not include the planner going through all the plan calculations and assumptions to ensure they are all correct. I see a lot of time being spent on these efforts, and therefore we have less time to deal with the big issues. As you look at a plan, you need to see if any numbers in the plan look out-of-whack from what you would expect. If they look wrong, then you need to check those figures and recommend the necessary changes if needed, but you do not need to go through and develop the entire plan again to see if there are any minor errors in the calculations.

In addition to this effort to look for significant problems, you should run through a couple of the calculations to make sure things seem to generally be done correctly in the plan, but I hate to see our reviewers rewriting plans in order to check all the calculations. Also, as it relates to the P-Index efforts, if the variables used look logical for the field (such as soil loss, runoff factor, etc.) you do not need to ask to see all the RUSLE calculations or the runoff potential determinations. If you think some of these P-Index factors look out-of-whack you should ask the planner how they derived them and from there determine if additional review is needed.

If you are new in the business you may need to run through some more numbers until you develop a good feel for what seems logical for particular situations. But with more experience, you can tell a lot by just looking over the numbers, and running through a few of the calculations to ensure they are done right.

Plan reviews for credit: If you are going to be submitting a plan review for credit, remember to provide your initial review comments to Christian, along with a copy of the plan, prior to sending comments to the planners. That way any additional comments from Christian will be incorporated in the first comment letter the planner receives.

Involving state agency staff: If you are reviewing a plan and are going to request guidance from state agency folks, again, please involve them early on so plan reviewers receive all the comments at once.

Discussing the plan with the operator: Prior to submitting a plan, please make sure you go over the entire plan with the farmer so they know exactly what is in it, and they agree with what is in it, prior to submission. The farmer should not sign a plan before they have read it and agree with the yields, crops, animal number, etc. for the operation and they agree with the practices and application rates and times.

Also, if the plan is significantly revised from the time it is originally submitted, the farmer will need to have those changes reviewed with him and he will need to sign again to indicate he agrees with the changes.

Invite district staff to initial plan development meetings: When the planner meets with the farmer for an original visit to collect the information to develop the plan or plan amendment, the planner should arrange that meeting to allow the district to be there as well so that all parties are hearing the same information from the farmer. So, I am strongly encouraging that private sector planners schedule these initial farm visits with the conservation district reviewer so you can both be out there at the same time to meet with the farmer and you both get the same information to develop and review the plan. This will simplify and speed plan review and foster more understanding between the planners and reviewers. This visit will serve as the district's farm visit required for plan review which will minimize the number of times the farmer needs to meet with different folks to discuss the plan issues prior to approval. This will show the farmer that we are all working together for the same end, not working independently, which can appear to the farmer to be inefficient in getting the job done.

Now this not only requires the cooperation of the private sector planners to arrange these visits with the district staff and the farmer, but it also requires the cooperation of the district staff to accommodate these joint site visits. I strongly encourage districts to accommodate these joint site visits and consider these as your plan review site visit.

I firmly believe that these joint farm visits will allow the planner and reviewer to more effectively address many of the questions that arise now during the plan review process, and will allow the district to provide their input at a time that is most efficient in getting the plan developed and approved quickly. Please implement this new site visit procedure as soon as practicable; I think it will make all of our lives a little easier.

Doug Goodlander
Director of Nutrient Management Program
State Conservation Commission

Soil Loss, the P Index and NMP Review

As you know, upon implementation of the State Conservation Commission's Interim Phosphorus (P) Policy in May 2004, a P management component became a requirement for all new nutrient management plans (NMPs) or NMP amendments requiring conservation district board action. Furthermore, the P Index requires that a soil loss value be entered on the P Index spreadsheet, to determine the final P Index Value for a given field or management unit requiring a part B analysis. This has caused a certain level of confusion in the NMP review process. This newsletter article is an attempt to clarify these procedures.

The soil loss value to be entered in the P Index is the annual calculated soil loss over the rotation for the field or management unit in question. This soil loss value, represented by "A" in the soil loss calculation (A=RKLS_{CP}), could be the same as, more or less than "T", the tolerable soil loss for a given soil mapping unit. Furthermore, this value could come from an existing Conservation Plan or Ag E&S Plan, or it could be calculated specifically for the P Index. In existing Conservation Plans or Ag E&S Plans, soil loss values could have been calculated using the following methods: 1) the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE), 2) the hard copy version of the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) or 3) the computer version of RUSLE, called RUSLE2. The Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program will accept existing soil loss values derived from any of these methods, with one important stipulation; the calculated soil loss value must represent the crop rotation and tillage practices currently employed on the operation. Any new soil loss calculations must be performed using RUSLE or RUSLE2.

Moving on to NMP review, it is not intended for the conservation district nutrient management specialist to check and/or recalculate soil loss values submitted in the P Index as a normal step in the plan review process. However, during the reviewing specialist's required plan review site visit, specific field conditions should be observed as they relate to the soil loss values submitted. For instance: If the submitted soil loss value for a given field is 2 tons per acre, but there is evidence of significant sediment deposition down-slope from the field in question, the planner should be asked to justify the soil loss values used in the P Index. That being said, reviewers should remember the following: 1) agronomic BMPs are planned and designed to address stormwater runoff from a 10-year, 24-hour storm event, and 2) soil loss values are averaged over the rotation, which means that certain crops in the rotation are expected to have higher soil loss than others. So, reviewers only need to ask to see the actual soil loss calculation for a given field if, based on their site review, they have a reason to question the soil loss number used in the P Index. In closing, the immortal lyrics of Bob Dylan, "The times they are a-changin'", are just as applicable today as they were in 1964. The revised Act 6 regulations, now entering the final stages of approval, also include certain revisions required by Act 38, the Nutrient and Odor Management Act. This new legislation, which is the result of the governor's ACRE initiative, will require still more regulatory changes. At this point, no one has all the answers to all the potential questions; however, we all need to ensure that producers receive an accurate NMP that meets the requirements of the regulations. As we all strive to achieve this worthwhile, albeit lofty goal, please, be kind to each other.

Bill Clouser
Nutrient Management Program Coordinator
State Conservation Commission

Joel Myers
State Agronomist
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Setbacks and Buffers

Act 38 of 2005, the new Nutrient and Odor Management Act (NOMA) reauthorized the old Nutrient Management Act and added a few new twists. One of those new twists is that odor plans will be required for new CAO and CAFO facilities (housing and manure storages, not application). The Commission has 2 years (until July of 2007) to

develop those odor management regulations, so there is no action needed in the near future relating to odor plans, but keep your nose to the air for progress on this front.

One of the other twists added to NOMA are new setback and buffer requirements for CAOs and their importers. The law established that CAO manure cannot be mechanically applied within 100 feet of a stream (perennial or intermittent), lake or pond, unless a 35-foot permanent vegetative buffer is maintained along the stream, lake or pond. This does not require a setback for grazing situations, only those situations where manure will be mechanically applied. One of the real twists to this issue is that it becomes effective on CAOs and importers of CAO manure (not volunteers) starting January 6, 2006, regardless of the regulation revision process. So, what do we do?

The Commission, in cooperation with DEP, is developing a letter and associated fact sheet to be sent to all CAOs informing them of this new statutory requirement. The Commission approved the distribution of this letter and factsheet at their October 21, 2005 meeting. Once they approve this effort, the Commission office will send the letter and fact sheet to all conservation districts with our request that districts send them to all the CAOs in your county (the Commission does not have the CAO names and addresses to send out these materials). The letter and associated fact sheet will explain the issue and indicate to the CAOs the necessity for them meet this requirement, regardless of the provisions in their current plan. Following Commission action, the letter and fact sheet will also be placed on the Nutrient Management website.

In addition to the information provided in the letter and fact sheet, the Commission will be sending out further guidance to the districts and planners on how to advise and monitor CAOs in the implementation of this provision. That guidance will be sent out to our specialists following the letter, as the Commission has yet to finalize with legal staff, the full effect of this requirement.

The guidance will address how plans submitted under the program are to include this new requirement, so please look for this guidance to help direct you in your planning and plan review efforts. Until that time, I would strongly recommend to all planners that all CAO plans and CAO plan amendments submitted for approval after November

15, 2005 address these setbacks. I don't think we can require it right now (before the new NOMA provision or the new regulations go into effect), but legal council is looking into this for us. It is noted that EPA is already requiring these setbacks as part of its review of CAFO permits, as federal regulations for setbacks have been in effect since 2003. This effort by the planning community to include these new setbacks and buffers in CAO plans now would be very helpful in ensuring that farmers understand this new requirement that is coming in early 2006.

Thank you all for your help in working with the farm community to carry out the provisions of the NOMA. Without the cooperation of all those involved, this program will have a hard time working through these various transition issues.

Doug Goodlander
Director of Nutrient Management Program
State Conservation Commission

Clarification on ACA Evaluation Workshop Policy

The July 2005 issue of Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Newsletter included several Certification and Education Policies. The ACA Evaluation Workshop Policy outlined the requirements for specialists taking this training.

The wording of the policy stated that **all** specialists must take the ACA training to renew their nutrient management certification. This directive was intended **only for commercial and public specialists**, not individual specialists, renewing their certification.

Therefore, those certified as individual specialists do not need to take the ACA Evaluation Workshop training to renew their nutrient management specialist certification. In addition, the Continuing Education Credits are not available for individual specialists who might attend this training.

If there are any questions regarding the policies, please contact me at 717-772-5218 or email me at maucoin@state.pa.us.

Michael Aucoin
Certification & Education Specialist
PDA Nutrient Management Program

Trading ...A Commercial Perspective

Trading. Webster defines **trade** as: *n.* 1. an occupation requiring skilled labor, 2. the business of buying and selling commodities: commerce, 3. the exchange of one thing for another. Or the *verb*: 1. to give in exchange for something else, 2. to engage in the buying and selling for profit. It says you can trade-in, trade-on, trade-off or trade-up. We have trademarks, trade winds and trade magazines. Whether you trade baseball cards, marbles, or fishing stories. Trading is part of our culture. “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure” or something like that.

Trading is about to take on an entirely new commodity: Nutrients. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been a strong verbal advocate for trading but has finally put a *DRAFT* policy on the street to validate their support. Several efforts in the Bay watershed have explored nutrient trading as a possible alternative to address nutrient challenges but until now, most interested parties have been reluctant, except a major pharmaceutical company, to execute a nutrient trade not knowing whether or not the outcome would outweigh the effort.

“So what’s to trade?” you ask. Manure! Actually the nutrients found in manure: primarily nitrogen and phosphorus. The nutrient reduction goals prescribed to meet the Tributary Strategy for Pennsylvania are quite aggressive. And considering agriculture is expected to contribute almost 75% of the solution from their non-point source contribution, and considering we have phosphorus limited soils in much of south-central Pennsylvania, and considering that the increased cost to transport manure to acres capable of properly utilizing the nutrients is becoming problematic, we have a definite opportunity.

On the other side of the street we have the wastewater treatment industry that is currently trying to figure out how they will comply with their new Water Quality NPDES permits instituted by DEP. They, according to the Tributary Strategy, are responsible for meeting nutrient reduction goals that has them scratching the ground looking for affordable technology.

Enter the building industry that is looking for ways to keep their boat afloat as nutrient caps in watersheds have put a cramp in their style of growth potential given certain wastewater limits due to the new nutrient cap load restrictions. Well we could collapse in a heap and speculate the final days of our specific industry demise or grab a hold of this trading concept and make it work for all of us. There are tremendous opportunities available if we can cut through the bureaucracy, the ambiguity, and the “Eeyore: it will never work syndrome”, leave our pre-conceived opinions at the door and begin open and honest dialogue with those of us with regional Bay market share at stake. We can make a difference if we are willing to give a little to make a theoretical model a reality.

We are told that the cost to reduce a pound of non-point source nitrogen is a fraction compared to a point source pound. Agriculture doesn’t have the money nor is more promised to meet the current regulations much less the more restrictive ones on the way. Who may trade, what may be traded, where trading may occur, who determines the thresholds of eligibility for credit generation, how is a unit of trade defined, who documents the credits and the trades, and who insures the trades are all yet to be determined. Stay home and trade marbles. I’m looking to trade manure nutrients because it may be the best way to meet our Tributary goals and still stay in business. It isn’t the only game in town, but it may be one of the better ones to watch. There will always be winners and losers but you at least have to be *ON* a team to determine that.

Back to our definition - the business of buying and selling a commodity. Manure being valued and traded as a commodity for the nutrients by a wastewater treatment plant looking to meet the reduction parameters set forth in their NPDES permit. Helping to plant cover crops, installing riparian buffers, or transporting manure to a renewable energy plant. It can get even better than that with a little more imagination. That sounds like a lot more fun than trading baseball cards.

“If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn’t thinking.” George S. Patton (1885-1945)

Bill Achor
Environmental Coordinator
Wenger’s Feed Mill, Inc.

Act 49 Comment Period and Trainings Coming Soon!

Currently, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) is drafting the regulations that will outline the educational component of Act 49, the Commercial Manure Hauler and Broker Certification Act. Regulation development should be completed later this year.

When the regulations become available, there will be a 30-day public comment period. This will be the last chance for the agricultural community to influence the regulations.

If you are interested in reviewing the regulations and would like information on how to make comment, please contact Johan Berger (717-772-4189; joberger@state.pa.us) or Mike Aucoin (717-772-5218; maucoin@state.pa.us) at PDA.

The law states that by February 26, 2006 all commercial haulers and brokers must be certified. There will only be a small window of time between regulation implementation and the required certification date. We expect the required education to take place at several locations in January and February of 2006. PDA strongly encourages ALL commercial manure haulers, applicators and brokers to attend these trainings as soon as they are offered.

The initial certification dates and locations are as follows:

Wednesday, January 25, 2006	Leesport
Tuesday, January 31, 2006	Indiana
Tuesday, February 8, 2006	Lancaster
Thursday, February 9, 2006	Williamsport
Friday, February 17, 2006	Shippensburg

For the past five years Penn State has conducted a voluntary Manure Hauler Certification program. The voluntary program will be adapted to meet the regulations. Unfortunately, those who have become certified under the voluntary program will need to attend the required course. This program will operate similar to the Nutrient Management Plan Writers Program. Penn State will supply the educational components while PDA handles many of the administrative operations of the Act and dispenses the actual certification.

For more information contact Robb Meinen (814-865-2987; rjm134@psu.edu).

Robb Meinen
Penn State Cooperative Extension
Manure Haulers Education Program

Determining Pasture Yields

There have been many questions by both planners and reviewers concerning determining yields for pastures. We recognize that this is a very difficult effort and we are fortunate that NRCS has developed a pasture yield chart that can be used to make an informed estimate of the yield that can be expected from a particular pasture.

Below is the chart developed by NRCS. Please follow the direction in this chart when determining a yield for planning purposes. If you propose to use a yield that is different than that suggested in the chart, please discuss this with the plan reviewer prior to plan submission so the issue can be resolved prior to the plan review process.

Doug Goodlander
Director of Nutrient Management Program
State Conservation Commission

Estimating Forage Yields For Pastures & ACAs

Intensively Grazed Pasture System Forage Yields			
The following are expected yield ranges for different soils and fertility levels when utilizing intensively managed pasture systems.			
Species *	Good soils & high fertility levels	Average soils & average fertility levels	Poor soils & poor fertility levels
Orchardgrass with a moderate yielding legume Species (25 to 40%)	7.0 tons/ac/yr	5.0 tons/ac/yr	2.5tons/ac/yr
Perennial Ryegrass with a moderate yielding legume species (25 to 40%)	5.0 tons/ac/yr	3.5 tons/ac/yr	2.0 tons/ac/yr
Timothy or Bromegrass (No legume present)	6.5 tons/ac/yr	4.5 tons/ac/yr	3.0 tons/ac/yr
Kentucky Blue Grass with 25 to 40% legume present	4.0 tons/ac/yr	2.5tons/ac/yr	1.5tons/ac/yr
Reeds Canarygrass	8.0 tons/ac/yr	5.5 tons/ac/yr	3.5 tons/ac/yr
Orchardgrass	8.0 tons/ac/yr	5.5 tons/ac/yr	3.5 tons/ac/yr
Estimated ACA Forage Yields			
The following are expected yield ranges for different soils and fertility levels when managed as "green ACAs" (manure nitrogen deposition exceeds nitrogen removal).			
	Good High Yielding Soils	Poor Yielding Soils	
ACAs	2 to 2.5 tons/ac/yr	1 to 1.5 tons/ac/yr	

* Yields can increase or decrease by 1 ton when increasing or decreasing soil fertility.

Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Education Program Certification Workshops and Training Opportunities

Registration is required for all workshops! No walk-ins please!
Please register no later than one week prior to the training date.

Plan Review Workshop

November 16, 2005

PA Dept. of Agriculture, Room 309
Cameron Street, Harrisburg

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

All public nutrient management specialists must fully complete this mandatory training course in order to obtain provisional certification. It is also open to commercial specialists. Workshop focuses on Act 6 planning requirements and will provide public plan reviewers with necessary plan reviewing parameters. Upon registration attendees will receive a copy of a sample plan in the mail to review prior to the workshop. **A review of this plan must be completed and submitted at the training to receive credit for the course.** Walk-ins will not receive credit. It is assumed that participants are familiar with the calculations and material presented in the Managing Manure Nutrients Workshop. Therefore, participation in that workshop is a suggested prerequisite for this training. **Bring calculators, Nutrient Management Technical Manual, and Penn State Agronomy Guide.** Coffee and donuts provided. Lunch on your own.

Certification Examination

December 6, 2005

PA Dept. of Agriculture, Room 309
Cameron Street, Harrisburg
or
Centre County Solid Waste Authority
State College

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Examinations for commercial, public and individual nutrient management specialists will be given. Examination fee of \$50.00 for commercial and public categories must be paid prior to the exam. Examination fee may be paid at the time of registration or the day of the Pre-Certification course. Examination study packets will be available the day of the Pre-Certification course or sent upon receipt of the examination fee. Enclose check payable to 'Commonwealth of Pennsylvania'. There is no fee for individual exams. Advanced registration for all categories and fee payment is required. **Note: Please register for only ONE (1) of these testing locations.**

Introduction to Livestock Production Systems

January 18, 2006

Centre County Solid Waste Authority

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

This basic workshop is specifically designed to provide background training for commercial and public specialists who may not have experience in one or more livestock production systems. The workshop provides an overview of the typical production systems in Pennsylvania for dairy, swine and poultry. A major focus of these discussions will be on manure handling. In addition, topics such as contracts, marketing, economics, biosecurity issues, and dead animal disposal are also addressed.

Nutrient Management Orientation

February 21 & 22, 2006

PA Dept. of Agriculture, Room 309
Cameron Street, Harrisburg

9:00 am - 4:00 pm (2/21)
9:00 am - 12:00 noon (2/22)

All commercial and public nutrient management specialists must fully complete this mandatory training course in order to obtain provisional certification. Training provides a comprehensive introduction and overview to the Act 6 regulatory requirements for nutrient management planning. Introductory nutrient management planning resources will be provided. Coffee and donuts provided. Lunch on your own.

Managing Manure Nutrients Workshop	March 15 & 16, 2006
Centre County Solid Waste Authority	9:00 am - 4:00 pm (3/15)
State College	8:00 am - 3:30 pm (3/16)

This crucial background-training workshop provides a foundational understanding of the primary crop nutrients – nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. **Participation in this workshop is strongly suggested before attending the Plan Writing and Plan Review workshops.** Basic soil fertility concepts are introduced – nutrient cycles and behavior, managing nutrients for crop production and environmental protection, soil sampling and analysis, and crop nutrient recommendations. Presentation of key manure nutrient management topics builds on this groundwork. This includes discussion on manure types and production calculations, manure variability, manure sampling, nutrient contents and availability factors, long term manure nutrient contributions and environmental impacts. **Bring calculators, Penn State Agronomy Guide, and Nutrient Management Technical Manual.** Coffee and donuts provided. Lunch on your own.

Stormwater Management & RUSLE Workshop	March 28 & 29, 2006
Myers Farm	9:00 am - 3:30 pm (3/28)
Spring Mills, Centre County	8:30 am - 3:00 pm (3/29)

All commercial and public nutrient management specialists must fully complete this mandatory training course in order to obtain provisional certification. This training is also mandatory for certification of specialists who write or review nutrient management plans incorporating the P-Index under the SCC Interim Phosphorus Policy and the USDA-NRCS 590 Standard. Workshop provides critical classroom instruction and field exercises on basic concepts and methods used to evaluate field runoff control practices, identify critical runoff problem areas, and select BMPs to address these areas that must be included in an Act 6 nutrient management plan. These topics will be presented in the context of overall conservation treatments systems including the basic principles of soil erosion prediction, using RUSLE to address sheet and rill erosion, considerations to address stormwater concentrated flow concerns, as well as soil quality issues. **Bring calculators, clipboards, slope measuring devices (abney hand levels or clinometers), and appropriate clothing and boots for fieldwork.** Coffee, donuts and lunch provided.

Phosphorus Index Training	March 30, 2006
Myers Farm	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Spring Mills, Centre County	

This training is mandatory for certification of specialists who write or review nutrient management plans incorporating the P-Index under the SCC Interim Phosphorus Policy and the USDA-NRCS 590 Standard. Training provides critical classroom and field exercises on understanding the background and purpose of the Pennsylvania Phosphorus Index, learning how to use the Index to complete a field-by-field evaluation of phosphorus loss to water bodies, and how to incorporate the Index results into the nutrient management planning process for Act 6. **Bring calculators, clipboards, and appropriate clothing and boots for fieldwork.** Coffee, donuts and lunch provided.

Plan Writing Workshop	April 5 & 6, 2006
118 ASI Building	9:00 am - 4:00 pm (4/5)
Penn State University	8:00 am - 4:00 pm (4/6)

All commercial and public nutrient management specialists must fully complete this mandatory training course in order to obtain provisional certification. Workshop prepares all plan writers in developing nutrient management plans that meet the requirements of Act 6 and provide a beneficial tool to farmers to manage their manure and fertilizer nutrients. Topics of discussion include plan requirements, BMP selection, animal and manure inventories, crop yields and nutrient requirements, maps and other program requirements. Participants will use information from a sample farm to develop a nutrient management plan. It is assumed that participants are familiar with the calculations and material presented in the Managing Manure Nutrients Workshop. Therefore, participation in that workshop is a suggested prerequisite for this training. **Bring calculators, Nutrient Management Technical Manual, and Penn State Agronomy Guide.** Coffee and donuts provided. Lunch on your own.

ACA Evaluation Workshop

April 17 & 18, 2006

To Be Determined

9:00 am – 4:00 pm (4/17)

8:30 am – 4:00 pm (4/18)

All commercial and public nutrient management specialists must fully complete this mandatory training course in order to obtain provisional certification. Workshop provides critical training on how to identify manure management practices and animal concentration areas, how to conduct an evaluation of these areas to determine the adequacy of practices to prevent water pollution, and how to identify BMPs to address identified inadequate manure management practices that must be included in an Act 6 nutrient management plan. These approaches are introduced in the classroom and practically applied with exercises using multiple on-farm situations. **Bring calculators, Nutrient Management Technical Manual, Penn State Agronomy Guide, clipboards, and appropriate clothing and boots for field and barnyard work.** Coffee and donuts provided. Lunch on your own.

Plan Review Workshop

April 25, 2006

PA Dept. of Agriculture, Room 309
Cameron Street, Harrisburg

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

All public nutrient management specialists must fully complete this mandatory training course in order to obtain provisional certification. It is also open to commercial specialists. Workshop focuses on Act 6 planning requirements and will provide public plan reviewers with necessary plan reviewing parameters. Upon registration attendees will receive a copy of a sample plan in the mail to review prior to the workshop. **A review of this plan must be completed and submitted at the training to receive credit for the course.** Walk-ins will not receive credit. It is assumed that participants are familiar with the calculations and material presented in the Managing Manure Nutrients Workshop. Therefore, participation in that workshop is a suggested prerequisite for this training. **Bring calculators, Nutrient Management Technical Manual, and Penn State Agronomy Guide.** Coffee and donuts provided. Lunch on your own.

Certification Examination

May 2, 2006

PA Dept. of Agriculture, Room 309
Cameron Street, Harrisburg

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

or

Centre County Solid Waste Authority
State College

Examinations for commercial, public and individual nutrient management specialists will be given. Examination fee of \$50.00 for commercial and public categories must be paid prior to the exam. Examination fee may be paid at the time of registration or the day of the Pre-Certification course. Examination study packets will be available the day of the Pre-Certification course or sent upon receipt of the examination fee. Enclose check payable to 'Commonwealth of Pennsylvania'. There is no fee for individual exams. Advanced registration for all categories and fee payment is required. **Note: Please register for only ONE (1) of these testing locations.**

Registration Form

Registration is required for all workshops! No walk-ins please!
Registration will close one week prior to the training date.
Registrations will not be accepted after that date.

REGISTER BY FAX OR MAIL

FAX: 717- 783-3275

MAIL: Nutrient Management Section, PA. Department of Agriculture, 2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-11,
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

Date _____ Certification Number * _____

Name _____

Business _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

REGISTER ME FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS

- _____ Plan Review Workshop – November 16, 2005
- _____ Certification Examination, PDA – December 6, 2005
- _____ Certification Examination, Centre County – December 6, 2005
- _____ Introduction to Livestock Production Systems – January 18, 2006
- _____ Nutrient Management Orientation – February 21-22, 2006
- _____ Managing Manure Nutrients Workshop – March 15-16, 2006
- _____ Stormwater Management & RUSLE Workshop – March 28-29, 2006
- _____ Phosphorus Index Training – March 30, 2006
- _____ Plan Writing Workshop – April 5-6, 2006
- _____ ACA Evaluation Workshop – April 17-18, 2006
- _____ Plan Review Workshop – April 25, 2006
- _____ Certification Examination, PDA – May 2, 2006
- _____ Certification Examination, Centre County – May 2, 2006

* Individuals new to the program who do not have a certification number should complete and submit the Nutrient Management Certification Application form with this Registration Form. This application can be printed from the following website location: http://panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu/pdf/nm_certification_application.pdf