

Program Year 2021 Agricultural BMP TAC
Animal Waste Subcommittee
5-28-19 Meeting Summary
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Department of Forestry Fire Protection Conference Room
Charlottesville, VA

Voting Members Present:

Amanda Pennington, DCR-Chair
Kevin Dunn, Peter Francisco SWCD
Josh Walker, Headwaters SWCD
Megen Dalton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Sam Truban, Lord Fairfax SWCD

Non Voting Member Present:

Ben Chester, DCR

Public Attendance

Collin Turner, Shenandoah Valley SWCD

The subcommittee had quorum for the meeting.

- Review new TAC matrix
 - The group reviewed the new matrix and assignments to the animal waste subcommittee.
- Matrix Item 3A-Consider allowing storage for the manure produced during a one year cycle for layer/breeder operations
 - Hobey Bahaun, not present, provided information via email to the subcommittee chair related to the issue of storage for layer/breeder operations. He indicated that up to 58% of current operation do have adequate manure storage. He also reiterated that these operation do have a hard time finding buyers for the litter due to the high moisture content and there are a number of them that do not have adequate manure storage. These operations only change flocks every 11 months or so, and need a place to store the entire volume of manure generated during that time as they clean out the house to get it ready for the next flock.
 - The subcommittee, in general, supports the request to provide storage for these operations based on the manure produced in their layer/breeding production cycle, but had discussion on how exactly this should be worded in the specification. The language should be clear that the storage should be based on the manure produced.
 - Draft language for the WP-4 specification:

- Free stall
 - *A structure that is divided into stalls in which individual animals rest, but are not restrained. A free stall facility is not eligible under the VACS program.*
 - VOTE
 - In favor
 - All voting members present
 - Discussion on equine practices
 - The subcommittee is not opposed to the concept of solving a water quality problem.
 - Least cost technically feasible still needs to be considered.
 - The VACS program already has manure storage that equine operations may be eligible for. They could compost their manure using traditional methods within the manure storage facility.
 - The VACS program doesn't currently pay for forced air composting for animal mortality, even though it would be the most efficient method, it is not the least cost technically feasible. Additionally, the program currently only pays for composting of animal mortality, not manure.
 - They would qualify for the committee's proposed WP-4L as it is for all types of livestock. Would consider the existing stalls to be the confinement barn component of the specification, but they would be eligible for other components.
 - Since these operations already qualify for many of the VACS practices, the subcommittee recommends to not create equine specific practices
 - Vote
 - In favor
 - All voting members present
 - New idea proposed by a subcommittee member for discussion
 - Many littersheds that were construction under the VACS or NRCS program are falling out of lifespan have structural issues such as rotting tongue and groove wall planks.
 - It would be cheaper to retrofit existing manure storage that have issues rather than build another Littershed/manure storage
 - Something similar to the current CCI practices could be created for littersheds.
 - Just get the voluntary sign up and have maintenance funds?
 - This is something the subcommittee will be thinking about and maybe include in further discussions.
 - The subcommittee then continued their work on the WP-4L specification they started last program year. This will address matrix items 1A and 2A.