

# Farm Credit East Environmental Update

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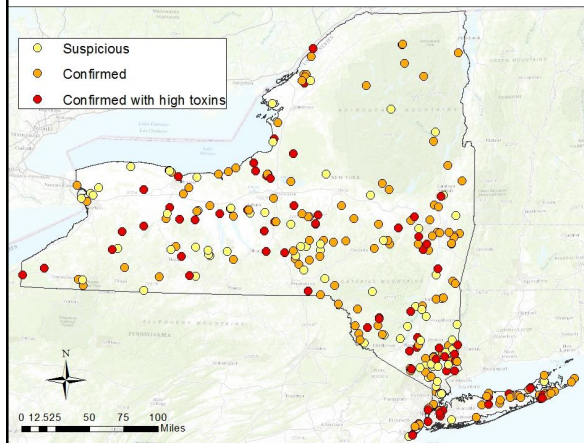


## Items

- q HAB update
- q Winter manure application
- q NY CAFO Permit
- q Vermont Required Ag Practices

## Reports of Harmful Algal Blooms: More vigilance, more found

### HABS in New York 2012-2016



Year	Suspicious	Confirmed	High Toxins	Total
2012	20	29	9	58
2013	17	37	22	76
2014	19	51	23	93
2015	42	62	35	139
2016	39	95	38	172
12-16	74	134	79	287

Phosphorus is necessary to support algae outbreaks



## What does this mean for dairy farms?

- This is not just NYS!!
- All states have monitoring network
- Manure is not the only source of phosphorus...
- BUT, it is often an important source of phosphorus in surface waters
- Regardless of your state, operation size
- Keeping manure on the land will be key
- Storage is important management tool for farming into the future!



## Manure, Winter Spreading and Phosphorus

- Regardless of farm size...
- More public scrutiny of our field practices
- Soil erosion control
- Winter spreading/manure storage
- Tile drains/Nitrate loss
- Application setbacks
- NY (CAFO) and VT regs get at these issues



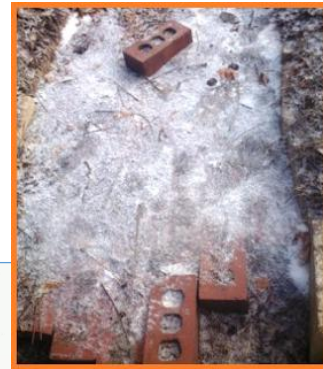
## NY CAFO

- Permits should be out soon...
- CAFO Road Show dates: TBD
- ECL Permit/Non-discharger:
  - all sources addressed and treated
- CWA Permit/Discharger
  - does or could your farm discharge?
  - other structural BMPs not fully implemented
  - public notice/access
  - before and after reports
- Which permit? Farm specific decision!
- Attend the road show, talk to planner
- Discuss with knowledgeable attorney
- Expect permit to have a decision period of a few months



## New: Application limits and Winter/Wet Weather restrictions

- Premise: lower runoff concern WHEN manure has contact time with soil
- Permit says:
  - 20kgal limit per single application
  - Lower rate if saturating soil
- No application unless notify DEC:
  - saturated wet
  - saturated frozen (concrete frost)



## Winter/Wet Weather Precautions

- Application with care:
  - Soil frozen >4"
  - Snow >4"
- Must use Winter/wet weather guidelines
- <http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/publications/files/WinterSpreadingGuidelines2015.pdf>
- Emergency spreading plan required



## New: Wet Weather SOPs

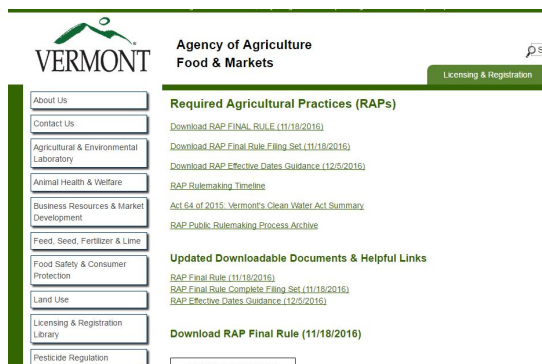
- Wet weather Standard Operating Procedures (WWSOPs)
- Practices at farmstead when 25/24 storm may be exceeded
- >5" rain
- Farm specific
- Work with planner
- Empty low flow tank, scrape open barnyards, check stormwater structures, transfer manure to another pit, etc



(Middleburgh.com)

## Vermont: New rules

- "Required Ag Practices"
- Replace "Acceptable Ag Practices" Rule (AAPs)
- Apply to ALL farms
- Enforcement by VT Agency of Ag, Food and Markets and State AG
- <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap>
- [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/pdf/water\\_quality/RAP/Final/Required-Agricultural-Practices-Regulations-11172016-CLEAN.pdf](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/pdf/water_quality/RAP/Final/Required-Agricultural-Practices-Regulations-11172016-CLEAN.pdf)





Required Agricultural Practices Effective Dates Discussion: Fall 2016

Section	Description	Effective Date	Discussion
6.04(d)	Cover Cropping of Floodplain Fields	April 15, 2017	Cover crops will not be required to be established on floodplain annual crop fields for Fall 2016
6.05(b)	Extended Winter Spreading Ban on Floodplain Fields: 10/15 - 4/15	April 15, 2017	The extended winter manure spreading ban for floodplain fields will not be in place for Fall 2016
6.07(a) & 6.07(b)	<b>Vegetative Buffer Zone Establishment:</b> - 25' Streams, - 10' on Ditches; - 100' on Annual Cropland, Vegetable Cropland or Small Grain Cropland with greater than 10% slope	April 15, 2017	25' Vegetative Buffer Zones on surface water, 10' on ditches, and 100' on annual, vegetable or small grain cropland with 10%+ slope will be required to be established prior to the 2017 cropping season.  Fall 2016: No tillage will be allowed in the buffer zones on streams and ditches, unless it is for preparing a seeding of perennial vegetation. Fall is an ideal time to establish a perennial vegetative buffer on an annual crop field prior to next spring's cropping season.
6.07(d)	<b>No Application of Manure or Ag Waste within:</b> - 10' of a ditch - 25' of surface water or surface inlet - 100' of surface water on a 10%+ average slope Annual Crop Field	On Adoption	Upon passage of the RAP Rule, manure and ag waste spreading restriction within vegetative buffer zones will become effective and will be enforced.  Manure and ag waste spreading restrictions also apply to private (100') and public water supplies (200').
4	Small Farm Certification Program	July 1, 2017	The Certified Small Farm Program will go into effect on July 1, 2017 as outlined in Act 64 of 2015.
6.03(a)	<b>590 Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)</b> Requirement for Certified Small Farm Operations	July 1, 2017	The requirement for Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFO) to develop a 590 Nutrient Management Plan will become effective July 1, 2017.  VAAFM will be working with partners on developing another equivalent standard in the interim which will serve as a stopgap NMP until a farm can access TA resources to develop a 590 NMP.  VAAFM is also reminding farmers that soil sampling has been a requirement of all farms in the state since 1995 and that soil samples should be no more than 5 years old. Records will need to be kept of manure and ag waste applications per the RAP Proposed Rule.
10	<b>Custom Manure &amp; Ag Waste Applicator Certification</b>	January 2017	The Custom Applicator Certification Program will not be effective for the Fall 2016 Manure Spreading Season. The program will be implemented in Winter of 2016/2017 for the Spring of 2017 field season.  The Agency reminds Custom Applicators to review Section 10(i) of the Proposed RAPs: (i) If a custom applicator has a request to apply manure or agricultural wastes on a farm that does not have a nutrient management plan as required, the applicator must notify the Agency and request the ability to proceed with the land application. The Secretary may require application restrictions.

[http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/pdf/water\\_quality/RAP/Final/VAAFM-RAP-Effective-Dates-Discussion-12052016.pdf](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/pdf/water_quality/RAP/Final/VAAFM-RAP-Effective-Dates-Discussion-12052016.pdf)

## Managing through...

- Talking about storage is not popular in a low price period...
- No storage on your farm? Start looking at how to get it
  - cost sharing opportunities take time
- Need more storage?
  - often having to spread in marginal conditions?
  - satellite storage options?
- ID high risk fields/locations to avoid/safest fields for risky conditions
  - save fields with ground cover
- Work with SWCD or planner for locations to pile if/when necessary
- Place manure below the surface when possible
- Develop and implement a nutrient management plan

## CONSERVATION AT WORK: We need to tell the story!!

