

STANDARD ANIMAL WEIGHTS UNDER CHAPTER 83
WORKGROUP MEETING
DEP AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

November 9, 2016

DEP South-Central Regional Office
909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA

In Attendance

William Neilson, PA Farm Bureau
Darwin Nissley, Beef Producer
Matt Matter, Grain Producer
Walter Moore, Dairy Farmer
Jennifer Reed-Harry, Penn-Ag Industries
William C. Fink, CVFF
Donald McNutt, Center for Dairy Excellence
Frank Schneider, State Conservation Commission
Tom Juengst, DEP Bureau of Clean Water

The DEP Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) held a workgroup meeting to further develop potential comments to provide to the State Conservation (SCC) for updating the standard animal weights table used for plans under the Act 38 Nutrient Management Program. The SCC established a comment period ending on December 30, 2016 and provided these questions to assist with comments:

1. The animal groups, per species, shown on the attached?
2. The draft average weights, per animal grouping, shown on the attached?
3. When should the proposed changes become effective?
4. How should the proposed new animal weights be brought into existing NMPs?
5. How should the proposed new animal weights be brought into existing CAO / CAFO calculations that show someone is not a CAO / CAFO?
6. How should these new proposed weights and agronomy facts 54 be “rolled out”

The meeting participants developed these points to present to the AAB at the next meeting on December 22, 2016.

Workgroup Meeting Comments

- The updates should be phased in so that all the plans would not be changed at once, which could overwhelm the planning and review processes.
- The whole planning and approval process takes about two years, so if these changes result in an operation becoming a CAFO that should be accommodated in the phase-in process, such as being with the permit renewal.
- How these changes could affect CAFOs should be closely coordinated with DEP.
- European cattle breeds should be added to the list.

- A broiler-breeder group should be added to the list.
- The SCC would take the lead in carrying-out and providing information on this update; the Conservation Districts would only have to support.
- Using these tables is easier than actually using actual animal weights data, so these table updates should be accurate.
- With Holstein Cow, the weight is generally closer to 1,400 lb.; and, a new category of old cow could be created with 1,500 lb.
- With Holstein Heifer 1-2 yr., the weight should be 1,000 lb., and not 1,050 lb.
- With Holstein Calf 0-1 yr., the weight should be 360 lb., and not 445 lb.
- The high end of the weight for Swine, Wean to finish and Grow finish should be 275 lb.