Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual for Agricultural Operations
(383-4200-002)
Draft
Technical Guidance Document
Timeline

- July - September, 2017 – DEP staff met with State Conservation Commission (SCC), NRCS and Penn State Extension representatives to work through outline and framework for the TGD.
- Fall 2017 – Winter 2017-18 – developed initial drafts and shared with a small internal workgroup, consisting of statewide representation of conservation districts, DEP, and SCC.
- Spring 2018 – Summer 2018 – met with Ag Advisory Board and Ag Advisory Board Subcommittee to further develop the draft document.
- Fall 2018 – last meeting with internal workgroup to review changes made to the draft. Final edits made.
- Spring - Summer 2019 – finalize/train for statewide use.
• Elements in the TGD
  • What – what is an Ag E&S Plan, and what are the required elements?
  • Who – to whom does it apply?
  • Why – attempted to focus on the benefits to the farmer as well as regulatory compliance
  • When – when would it need to be developed, updated, implemented, etc.
  • How – how should it be developed (i.e. how to identify and address resource concerns)
  • Includes reference to tools and resources (i.e. NRCS, PAOneStop, Conservation District planning assistance)
Ag E&S Technical Guidance Document

• Part 1 – Farmers/Producers
  • Flow charts, questionnaires, and concise text outlining program requirements and plan development guidance written specifically for farmers and others not familiar with E&S planning for agriculture.

• Part 2 – Planners/Plan Developers
  • Written with more detailed direction for those with more experience and knowledge of planning and implementing agricultural BMPs to help address more complex situations.

• Part 3 – Sample Plan and Plan Template

• Appendices –
  • Other resources and tools to assist with planning.
Part 1 – Section elements designed for Farmers/Producers

- Flow chart to determine if the plan is needed
- When the plans need to be updated
- Questionnaire: Should I write my own plan?
- Self-assessment to look for common issues on operation
- Summary of plan requirements
- Details of requirements and how to address them in the plan
- List and description of common BMPs
Part 2 – Section elements designed for commercial Planners/Plan Developers

- Greater detail and additional technical information on plan elements to help address more complex planning situations
- Common locations of concerns
- Common BMPs to address those concerns
Part 3 – Sample Plan and Plan Template

• Administrative completeness checklist
• Instructions and template are divided into 5 sections: General Information, Tolerable Soil Loss, Cropland/Hayland/Pasture BMPs, Near-Stream Fields, and AHUAs
• Also discusses how to determine appropriate implementation schedules
• Example plan shows operations, soil, and topographic maps for reference
• Blank forms created for operators/landowners to pull out of document and use to complete the plan
• Contains charts to record soil loss and all necessary information related to BMPs
Appendices

- **Appendix A – Planning Guidance to meet Tolerable Soil Loss (T)**
  - Includes charts if the operation meets the eligibility requirements
  - Charts streamline the task of calculating soil loss

- **Appendix B – Chapter 102.4(a) and other environmental requirements and programs**
  - Includes a summary of other environmental requirements that a farmer **may** also have to meet depending upon activities, such as:
    - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System NPDES Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
    - Chapter 83, Subpart D. (Act 38) Nutrient and Odor Management
    - Chapter 91 Manure Management
    - Farmland Preservation
    - Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program
    - NRCS Program Requirements
    - Construction E&S Planning requirements (which may include NPDES permitting if threshold is met)
    - Timber Harvesting - Clearing and Grubbing for Conversion to Agriculture
Summary

- Development of the Ag E&S Manual involved many different parties, including CCDs, SCC, Penn State Extension, NRCS, and Ag Advisory Board members.
- Input from the Ag Advisory Board was very much appreciated!
  - Assisted the Department with formatting, readability, and usability.
  - Suggestions provided were incorporated into the draft document.
- Seeking support from the Ag Advisory Board for posting for public comment in January 2019.
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