**BERNARD DINCHER BEEF FARM CERTIFICATION REQUEST REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

Bernard Dincher has a beef operation located in Hepburn Twp., Lycoming County. Currently, there are six finishing cows on the operation. The operation is pasture based from May to the beginning of November. The cattle are confined to barn in November through May. Manure collected from the barn is spread on Mr. Dincher’s hayfields.

**CERTIFICATION REQUEST DOCUMENTATION RQUIREMENTS**

1. **Baseline and Threshold (25 Pa Code 96.8)**

Mr. Dincher meets baseline requirements of 025 PA Code 96.8 by having the following required items:

1. A Manure Management Plan covering all of the tracts receiving manure (025 PA 83 Subchapter D)
2. Conservation Plans for all tracts (025 PA 102)

Mr. Dincher meets the threshold needed to generate credits by the requirement stated as, “Manure is not mechanically applied within 100 feet of a perennial or intermittent stream with a defined bed or bank, a lake or a pond”. Mr. Dincher also applies commercial fertilizer at or below agronomic rates contained in the current ***Penn State University Agronomy Guide*** published by Pennsylvania State University.

**Credit Generation**

Mr. Dincher’s operation generates credits based on practice that have been implemented into the grazing operation. These include, Off-Stream Watering with Stream Fencing (Pasture) and having installed a Riparian Forested Buffer. The credits are generated based on the difference between how the operation was run before the best management practices (BMPs) were implemented and how it is run now that the BMPs have been implemented.

**Credit Calculation Method**

All credits for this certification request will be for Nitrogen (N) credits only. To do this, the current version of the Nonpoint Source Nitrogen Calculation Spreadsheet found on the PA DEP Nutrient Trading Webpage was used. The manure figures used include the manure application rates and manure analysis found in the original certification.

 All cropland associated with this certification lies within Watershed Segment 60. The watershed segment has a Nitrogen delivery ratio of 0.93. The Nitrogen Edge of Stream Ratios for this watershed is 55% for conventional tillage, 31% for conservation tillage, 78% for hay, and 15% for pasture.

The Planned manure figures are based on what was happing before the BMP implementation and the Current manure figures are based on what is happening now, with the assumption that the operation has the maximum number of animals that it can and still not be an Act 38 regulated operation and still be below the nitrogen application rates needed for the grassed hay based on current ***Penn State University Agronomy Guide*** figures.

1. **Location Maps of the Proposed Prevention Reduction Activity (PRA)**

The following maps have been submitted to show the locations of the proposed PRA for each tract:

1. An aerial map showing the field and farm boundaries as well as local streams and roads.
2. A soil map showing the soils on the fields on the property.
3. A topographic map showing the tract’s general location, topography, and a latitude and longitude coordinate of the center of the tract’s PRA activities.
4. **Details on the Timing of Credits**

Credits will be verified annually. This will be done by visiting the farm to make sure that all credit generating BMPs are being maintained and obtaining animal numbers and animal movement information. This visit will take place in the May-July timeframe.

1. **Water Quality Uses Under Chapter 93**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tract number | Local Watershed Name | Watershed Name | Major Basin |
| 3488 | Long Run | Lycoming Creek | Susquehanna River |

Long Run is listed in Chapter 93 as having a designated use of HQ-CWF (High Quality- Cold Water Fishes).

The receiving stream segments for Tract 3488 is not impaired.

1. **Funding Source Information**

Mr. Dincher has received public funding sources to generate these credits. The funding was through the USDA’s CREP Program. All credits are free and clear financially.

1. **Risk Reduction Plan**

Provisions have been put into place to minimize the operator from not producing the credits through a contract with him, the Lycoming County Conservation District, and the County of Lycoming. The contract states that if the operator is under contract for future credits, he must supply them or provide the money required to pay the Lycoming County Nutrient Trading Program the amount it would cost to buy the amount of credits he did not generate. In most cases, we recommend that our producers sign one year contracts for practices that are not permanent like the CREP BMPs. In addition to this provision, the Lycoming Nutrient Trading Program has a fund set aside equal to 25%-30% of all previously sold credits in case there is a credit generator who defaults on contracted credits by no fault of his own. This fund could also be used to produce contracted credits for a generator instead of having a generator purchase them if he defaults depending on the circumstance of the credit default.

1. **Preservation and Conservation Easement Information**

Tract 3339 is not enrolled in an Ag Security Area. It is not enrolled in the Lycoming County Ag Preservation Program.

**Confidential Business Information**

N/A

1. **Submitting Person and PRA Participants**

**Submitter’s Information**

Submitting Agency: Lycoming County Conservation District

Address: 542 County Farm Road, Suite 202

 Montoursville, PA 17754

Contact Name: Rod Morehart, Chesapeake Bay Technician

Contact Phone #: 1(570) 329-1619

**PRA Participants Information**

Operation Information: Bernard Dincher Beef Farm

Address: 401 Crescent Hill Road

 Cogan Station, PA 17728

Contact Name: Bernard Dincher

Other PRA Participants: N/A

1. **Professional Qualifications**

Rod Morehart received a B.S.in Wildlife Management from Delaware State University in 2001. He has worked in the conservation field full time since May 2001. He has been nutrient management certified in Maryland, Delaware or Pennsylvania since 2002. He is also a certified conservation planner through the NRCS’s training program. Rod has been involved with the Lycoming County Nutrient Trading Program since its inception. He has written most of the proposals that have been submitted to date. He has completed all of the annual field verification and credit verification submission work since the program started selling credits.

1. **Verification Plan**

Credit verification will take place in the May-July time frame. An on-farm inspection of BMPs and meeting with Mr. Dincher to get animal numbers and animal movement information will occur during this visit.

**Attachments to Supplement the Certification Request Form and**

**Certification Request Required Documentation**

1. **Map Folder**

**This folder contains the following maps:**

 Dincher T 3488 map

 Dincher T 3488 soil map

 Dincher T 3488 topographic map

1. **Dincher RUSLE2 PDF**
2. **Dincher animal manure figures**
3. **Dincher T 3488 F 1 & 5 spreadsheet**
4. **BMP Summary**
5. **Dincher Spreadsheet Summary**