**STYER’S VEGETABLE FARMCERTIFICATION REQUEST REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

 Styer’s Vegetable Farm is located in Muncy Creek Township, Lycoming County. It consists of one tract. Typical crops grown are sweet corn, peas, rhubarb, pumpkins, cabbage, onions, and beets.

**CERTIFICATION REQUEST DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

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

The Styer’s Vegetable Farm farm meets baseline requirements of 025 PA Code 96.8 by having the following required items:

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

Styer’s Vegetable Farm is in full compliance of the requirements of its Conservation Plans and Nutrient Management Plan.

Styer’s Vegetable Farm meets the threshold needed to generate credits by applying commercial fertilizer at or below agronomic rates contained in the current *Penn State University Agronomy Guide* published by Pennsylvania State University.

**Credit Generation**

Styer’s Vegetable Farm is an operation that uses conventional, conservation and no-till tillage. It also grows cover crops most years. RUSLE2 calculations were run to cover multiple crops grown on the operation. All credits generated by Styer’s Vegetable Farm are generated by going beyond the baseline tillage requirements to meet the tolerable soil loss rate.

**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 70. The watershed segment has a Nitrogen delivery ratio of 0.941. The Nitrogen Edge of Stream Ratios for this watershed is 45% for conventional tillage, 45% for conservation tillage, 86% for hay, and 13% for pasture.

**NOTE:** The spreadsheets show the entire farm being in each crop, which is not how the farm is cropped. I took the highest amount and used it for the potential that the farm could generate. In the past, the farm has actually generated less than 100 credits on any given year since the current calculation system was implemented.

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 FSA map showing the farm boundaries, the field boundaries of tracts that generate credits, adjacent or nearby road names, and any visible receiving streams.
2. A soil map showing the soils in the fields generating credits. A chart with all of the operation’s soil type symbols and their names is also attached with this proposal.
3. A topographic map showing the general area, topography of the tract, and a latitude and longitude reading for the center of the PRA activity.
4. **Details on the Timing of Credits**

Credits will be verified after the spring crops have been planted. This is usually done in the May-July timeframe.

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tract number(s) | Local Watershed Name | Watershed Name | Major Basin |
| 595 | Glade Run | Muncy Creek | Susquehanna River |
| 595 | Muncy Creek | Muncy Creek | Susquehanna River |

Muncy Creek is listed as TSF (Trout Stocked Fishery) and Glade Run is listed as WWF (Warm Water Fishery). None of the receiving streams segments are listed as having impairments.

1. **Funding Source Information**

Styer’s Vegetable Farm has not received public funding sources to generate these credits.

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 595 is enrolled in the Muncy Creek Township Ag Security Program. It is not enrolled in the Lycoming County Ag Preservation Program.

1. **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: Styer’s Vegetable Farm

Address: 215 Shady Lane

 Muncy, PA 17756

Contact Name: Tom Styer

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**

A field verification visit will be made to inspect the tillage used on all fields that can generate tillage related credits after the spring planting has occurred.

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

**Certification Request Required Documentation**

1. **Maps Folder (Each folder listed below contains an FSA map, Soil Map, and a Topographic Map)**

Tract 595

An Aerial Map or FSA map showing the farm boundaries, the field boundaries of tracts that generate credits, adjacent or nearby road names, and any visible receiving streams.

A soil map showing the soils in the fields generating credits.

A topographic map which shows a tract’s general location, topography, and a latitude and longitude coordinate of the center of the tract’s PRA activities.

1. **RUSLE2 Folder**

**This folder contains the following RULSE2 PDF: Tract 595 F 1-3**

1. **Spreadsheet Folder**

**This folder contains the following spreadsheets:** Tract 595 F 1-3

1. **BMP Summary Spreadsheet**
2. **Spreadsheet Summary**