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Update on PAG-12 CAFO General Permit Renewal

Ag Advisory Board
October 17, 2012



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Reasons for Revisions

- The CAFO General permit (GP) must be renewed every 5 years. Current permit has been extended to 3/31/2013.
- EPA revised their NPDES regulations relating to CAFOs in 2008
- Provides Opportunity to provide clarification of existing State regulations.



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Brief History

- First set of EPA comments provided on August 18, 2011
- Draft GP submitted to EPA on May 1, 2012
- Updates at 3 AAB meetings and 2 AAB CAFO workgroup meetings



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Brief History

- Second set of EPA comments provided on June 14, 2012
- Meeting with EPA on July 19, 2012
- EPA generally pleased with progress
- Two outstanding issues
 - winter spreading and Bay TMDL



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Brief History

- Revised draft GP package submitted to EPA on August 22, 2012 which starts EPA's 90-day clock for review
- No change in winter spreading or Bay TMDL BMPs
- updates at AAB meeting and 2 AAB CAFO workgroup meetings



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Major Changes in August Submittal

- Animal types and numbers
- Clarification of who may or may not be covered by the permit
- Listing of applicable design storms
- Clarification of major and minor permit modifications



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Next Steps

- EPA is currently reviewing the General Permit.
- 30-day public comment period to begin October 27, 2012
- Meeting scheduled with EPA on October 23 to discuss outstanding issues



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Next Steps

- EPA comment period ends 11/22/12
- Anticipated public comment period would end ~11/26/12
- Revise GP based on EPA and public comments
- Publish final GP in Pa Bulletin