**MARY BUDDENDORF/JIM MCCOY BEEF FARM CERTIFICATION REQUEST REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

Jim McCoy’s operation is located in Mill Creek Township, Lycoming County. It is primarily a beef and grain operation. The beef cows are housed at his home farm, Tract 1625. There are 40 cow/calf pairs, one bull and 15-25 finishing cows. The cows are put on pasture at the beginning of May through the middle of November. Calves are weaned and moved inside at the end of September. They remain there until they are sold the following year. The bull is out with the cows from June through November when they go in for the winter.

**CERTIFICATION REQUEST DOCUMENTATION RQUIREMENTS**

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

Mr. McCoy 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. McCoy 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. McCoy 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. McCoy’s operation generates credits based on practice that have been implemented into the grazing operation. These include Precision Grazing, Off-Stream Watering with Stream Fencing, and having 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. He also generates conservation tillage, continuous no-till, and cover crop credits for his grain operation going above the baseline for his cropping practices.

**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 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 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 numbers | Local Watershed Name | Watershed Name | Major Basin |
| 1614, 1625, 3780 & 4026 | Mill Creek and UNTs | Loyalsock Creek | Susquehanna River |
| 1828 | Pine Run | Mill Creek | Susquehanna River |
| 1828 | Rush Run | Mill Creek | Susquehanna River |
| 3704 | UNT to W. Branch Susquehanna River (Carpenter’s Run) | West Branch Susquehanna River | Susquehanna River |

Mill Creek and UNTs, Pine Run, and Rush Run are listed in Chapter 93 as having a designated use of TSF (Trout Stocked Fishes). UNT to W. Branch Susquehanna River is listed as having a designated use of WWF (Warm Water Fishes).

The receiving stream segments on UNT to W. Branch Susquehanna River (Carpenter’s Run) is listed as having an impairment listed as Agriculture: Siltation.

1. **Funding Source Information**

Mr. McCoy 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**

None of the tracts are enrolled in an Ag Security Area or in the Lycoming County Ag Preservation Program.

 **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: Mary Buddendorf/Jim McCoy Beef Farm

Address: 2938 Woodley Hollow Road

 Montoursville, PA 17754

Contact Name: Jim McCoy

Other PRA Participants: Mary Buddendorf

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 checks.

1. **Verification Plan**

Credit verification will take place in the May-July time frame. An on-farm inspection of BMPs and meeting with Mr. McCoy 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 (Each folder listed below contains an FSA map, Soil Map, and a Topographic Map)**

Tract 1614 Tract 1625 Tract 1828 Tract 3704

Tract 3780 Tract 4206

**2.** **RUSLE2 Folder**

 **This folder includes the following RULSE2 PDFs:**

 McCoy T 1614 F 1-5 RUSLE2

 McCoy T 1625 F 1-5, 10, 12 & Horse Pasture RUSLE2

 McCoy T 1828 F1 & 2 RUSLE2

 McCoy T 3704 F 1 & 2 RUSLE2 McCoy T3780 F 1 & 2RUSLE2

 McCoy T 4026 F 1-3 RUSLE2

**3**. **Spreadsheet Folder**

**This folder includes the following spreadsheets:**

 McCoy T1614 F 1 & 3 McCoy T 1614 F 2 McCoy T 1614 F 4

 McCoy T 1614 F 5 McCoy T 1625 F 1 McCoy T 1625 F 2 & 5

 McCoy T 1625 F3 McCoy T 1625 F 4, 10 & 12

 McCoy T1625 Horse Pasture McCoy T 1828 F 1 & 2

 McCoy T 3704 F 1 McCoy T 3704 F 2 McCoy T 3780 F 1 & 2

 McCoy T4026 F 1 McCoy T 4206 F 2 McCoy T 4206 F 3

**4. McCoy animal manure figures**

**5. McCoy BMP Summary Spreadsheet**

**6. McCoy Spreadsheet Summary**