



# Working with Equine Operations

Columbia and Montour  
Conservation Districts



# Red Roof Horse Farm

## Columbia County

- First contact with operation due to complaint
- Landowner had very limited knowledge of nutrient management or ag E & S
- Manure was stacked in a drainage ditch
- Horses had free access an ag impaired stream flowing through the winter sacrifice area
- Landowner dug a ditch from the manure spreader to the stream to drain storm water from around the spreader









# Red Roof Horse Farm

## Columbia County

- Determined that the operation is not a CAO
- Explained manure management and ag E&S requirements
- Landowner was very receptive to this information
- Offered grant funds to install BMP's to address runoff issues
- Received funds through Bay SPG
- Project will be installed in the spring of '08

# Gleniron Equestrian Center Inc. Montour County

- Received a complaint from the township that manure was stacked close to a stream
- Met with the landowner to investigate complaint
- Manure was stacked within 20 feet from stream at the bottom of a hill
- Determined that the operation was a CAO





# Gleniron Equestrian Center Inc.

## Montour County

- Boarded 22 horses and had 10 acres of pasture
- Told them they needed to get an NMP and needed to look into a manure storage
- Cleaning out barn everyday usually 300-400 ton stacked for most of the year
- Farm used lots of bedding (200 ton)
- Having a difficult time with farmer coming to get manure
- Landowner thought it was a good idea to stack manure at the bottom of the hill to slow down stormwater entering stream



# Gleniron Equestrian Center Inc.

## Montour County

- Multiple meetings with landowner to answer questions
- Did get a plan developed
- Worked on and received Act 38 Grant for manure storage
- Problems with locating the storage
  - Limited space
- Constructed manure storage Oct-Nov 2007













# Things I Learned

- Townships often do not consider horse operations as farms but as commercial businesses unless they are actually breeding and selling colts
- Stricter building codes and permitting issues to follow
  - Often townships do not require building permits from ag operations
  - Had to build footer for manure storage below frost line
  - At first had to pay \$850 for building permit
- Tax issues with the grant money

# Overall Experience

- In the Montour County case the farm was regulated and had to do a plan and a manure storage by law
- The landowner was pretty upset when told what he needed to do to comply
- In the Columbia County case the farm was not regulated, but needed to install BMP's to meet minimum compliance
- The landowner in this case was receptive to this information
- Answered lots of questions- education was the key in both cases
- PDIP and Grant Program soften the blow

