Deadline Looms for 2010 Nutrient Management Assistance

Source: John Lory

COLUMBIA, Mo.– Permitted animal feeding operations now can apply for cost-share funds as they face new nutrient management standards in 2010.

Operations have until Jan. 29 to apply to programs offered through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for incentives to help pay for new nutrient management plans.

“Given the economic hardship that’s out there in agriculture — particularly with animal feeding operations — this is an opportunity to get a quality plan written for less,” said John Lory, University of Missouri Extension environmental nutrient management specialist. “For some poultry operations the cost might be around $3,000, but if you’re talking about a large dairy the cost might be nearer to $10,000, and that’s a lot of extra money to set aside.”

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial assistance to help develop environmentally friendly management for cropland, grassland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland or other agricultural lands.

The NRCS program creates a comprehensive plan that accounts for everything from the generation, collection and storage of nutrients to handling, land treatment and actual nutrient management of that animal feeding operation, said Darlene Johnson, an NRCS resource conservationist.

Last year, Missouri farmers received $17 million through EQIP, although there were more than $70 million in eligible applications.

“We had well over four times the amount of requests than money available last year, which is typical, but if you don’t come in and sign up you have no chance to get part of that,” Johnson said. “We also recommend you not wait until the Jan. 29 deadline to come in, because making sure everything is in order can take some time.”

More than 550 permitted animal feeding operations exist in Missouri, and most will need new plans to meet requirements in the next year.

“The reality that many permitted facilities will need new plans is just now registering with farmers, so this short deadline might slip by unnoticed,” Lory said. “We want them to understand that if they haven’t had a plan written in the last year, the likelihood is that they’ll have to get a new one in 2010.”

The course will provide detailed presentations and discussion on how to interpret and use the new Nutrient Management Technical Standard. Topics will include phosphorus loss assessment including the phosphorus index, plant available nitrogen calculations and other protocols outlined in the new standard.

The course instructors will include faculty from University of Missouri and representatives from Missouri DNR. We have applied for 12 continuing education units (CEU’s) for CAFO and Wastewater operators and for 2.5 Soil and Water CEU’s and 9.5 Nutrient Management CEU’s for certified crop advisors.

Lory noted an NRCS Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) would meet or exceed the new technical standards for nutrient management plans on all permitted operations. He also encourages smaller unpermitted farms with less than 1,000 head to consider applying for this opportunity.

“One important thing is that NRCS will provide the incentive payment to the farmer and he can choose a planner to write the plan from a list of qualified Technical Service Providers,” he said.

“With the increased regulatory and environmental scrutiny taking place, the best way to be fully prepared is to have a plan.”

Visit your local NRCS office for more information and to sign up for EQIP before Jan. 29. For more information on the Missouri EQIP program, see http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip10.html.

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Nutrient Management Course Will Focus on the New DNR Nutrient Management Standard

By John Lory

On February 2-3, 2010 there will be a nutrient management course focused on the new Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Nutrient Management Technical Standard for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

The new Nutrient Management Technical Standard defines the protocols that permitted animal feeding operations need to use to determine manure application rates and defines conditions where manure applications are restricted.

The standard also defines the record keeping and monitoring requirements for manure storages and land application of manure.

The course will be held at the University of Missouri Research and Extension Center at Bradford Farm near Columbia MO. Cost of the course is $185 and includes two lunches. Call Shane Ferguson at 573-884-6311 to register. Pre-registration is required before Tuesday January 26, 2010.

More information about the course including a tentative agenda is available at the website http://nmplanner.missouri.edu/training/index.asp#advanced.

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