

January 30, 2006

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Johan Berger
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Commercial Manure Broker and Hauler Program
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

RECEIVED
2006 FEB -6 AM 9:04
REVENUE COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Berger,

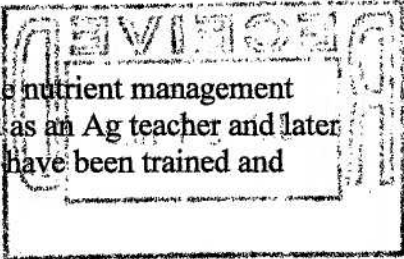
I am a dairy farmer in Juniata County. I am opposed to the new regulations, which are currently being implemented on the commercial manure haulers. Please withdraw those regulations immediately and revise to the limited nature that Act 49 permits and intended.

I have already felt the affects of these new regulations. Hog manure should have been spread on my growing wheat fields by now but my hauler must take time out to do training, certification, and paper work. The costs he incurs will be passed on to me. My guess is that it will increase my manure costs by 50-70%.

The proposed regulations will make more environmental trouble than help. They will squeeze manure hauling into a tighter band of time that will allow unfavorable weather conditions to really hurt the environment. I can expect to see reduced yields due to compaction and runoff.

Act 49 never said that employees of manure haulers must be certified. Manure hauling can be a part time job for an employee but if he needs to be trained and certified he no longer can be hired to do this job. Weather and the growing season do not permit manure hauling to be any thing but a part time job. This regulation looks like someone looking to create job security for themselves and a big budget for their department. Any annual certification and update training will do that very nicely. i.e. the pesticide regulations.

I believe that these manure-hauling regulations are just a back handed way to regulate production agriculture. Hogs and poultry will be highly affected by this law. It will in effect tax those producers as it drives up their costs with unfunded mandates. The costs will spread to all sectors of agriculture.



I sat on the Inter-agency Board that was mandated by the nutrient management regulations. It has since been discontinued. I was on the board as an Ag teacher and later after leaving teaching to farm I was on the board as a farmer. I have been trained and certified as a commercial nutrient plan writer.

I have a very good perspective of how these manure hauler regulations came about and were written. I have some working knowledge of how the people think that are responsible for these regulations. I doubt that any economic impact study was every completed. It seems to be the belief that costs are not an issue to the wealth farming community that is receiving all the government payments.

We need to address manure application methods and land loading in areas where there is too much manure. But the belief that manure is a hazardous material has no place in the minds of the people responsible for its regulation. Manure is an excellent source of plant nutrition for the thousands of acres of crops that are grown in Pennsylvania.

Again, I would ask that the Department of Agriculture withdraw the proposed commercial manure hauling and broker regulations as they currently intend to implement them.

Sincerely,

David G. Graybill
David G. Graybill
Dairy Farmer, Juniata County

Cc: Secretary of Agriculture Dennis Wolff
Senator Jake Corman
Representative Adam Harris