Just when you get familiar with the many requirements that come along with being a swine producer and/or animal waste operator, things seem to change. Unfortunately, most of the time, these changes often tend to make things more complicated. Regardless, in order to stay in compliance and ultimately in business, it is important for us all to know and stay familiar with these requirements. Many of you know that the new state general permits go into effect October 1, 2009. Along with the new permit come several changes to the existing permit that you will want to make note of if your farm operates under the state general permit (as opposed to the NPDES permit). The following are changes to make note of:

- PLAT (phosphorous loss assessment tool) can be called for on a case-by-case basis as requested by DWQ and completion will be required within 12 months of the request.
- A farm must receive prior approval before installing any treatment units
- Sludge that has been applied to a bare field must be incorporated within two days or before the next rain event
- Waste application must cease when within 4 hours of a hurricane or tropical storm event. This can be monitored through the national weather service.
- A calibration on irrigation equipment must be done every two years.
- Additional monitoring must be done after a one-inch rain event; ditches and tile outlets must be checked, including spray fields
- New sludge survey standards are in place, requiring 50% or more volume of permanent liquid treatment (as opposed to 4 feet). When sludge is greater than this, a sludge removal plan must be submitted within 90 days after the survey, and the farm must reduce sludge to become compliant by NRCS standards within two years of the survey.
- Stop pump guidance is now approved to go 8 inches below the stop pump during summer months (June 15 – October 1), provided 4 feet of sludge free liquid is maintained, all other requirements are met and accurate records are kept during this period.
As always, it’s critically important to be familiar with your permit! Whether you have a state general permit or a NPDES permit, make sure you read it and understand it from start to finish. Additionally, if you have questions about your permit, contact your local technical specialist or extension agent for advice. We will do our best to help you interpret these requirements and any revisions you don’t understand.

One of the newest trends in commercial livestock production is animal welfare. Pushed by consumers, many large retailers want to be able to assure the customer that the animals involved in their meat selection were humanely raised and slaughtered. There is nothing wrong with that desire- we should already be protecting the welfare of our animals as responsible livestock producers. However, a growing number of organizations, like PETA, are concerned about the rights of those animals, which opens a whole new can of worms.

Animal rights organizations are working hard to demand that all livestock be set free and not utilized for any product. This may sound crazy to those of us who understand the value of animal agriculture, but many people with lots of money are trying to make this a reality. Below is a list of just a few of the organizations that should be considered dangerous to animal agriculture:

- PETA
- Humane Farming Association
- Humane Society of the United States
- Vegan Outreach
- Animal Welfare Institute
- Mercy For Animals
- Farm Animal Reform Movement
- Animal Liberation Front

These organizations are very good at using high-profile celebrities to support their cause publicly. They are professionals at using multi-media outlets for their message. The goal of most of these groups is to END ANIMAL USE AND OWNERSHIP. This includes hunting, fishing, horseback riding, pets, and livestock.

What can you do? As a responsible livestock producer, you need to be able to explain why you raise livestock. Whenever someone asks you about your operation, be prepared to explain it as if you were talking to a 3rd grader. They want to know why you castrate, dehorn, and use ear tags. They want you to be able to explain where the cattle go for shade and shelter. If you can’t explain it logically, then chances are you should make some changes to your operation.

Ignoring this issue will not make it go away. Be sure that you are ready to defend yourself as a responsible livestock producer.

Those of you who would like to be certified or re-certified in Beef Quality Assurance will get the opportunity very soon. The new information will be available in the coming months, so be looking for local opportunities to either get or renew your certification. Beef Quality Assurance provides you with the tools you need to raise beef cattle responsibly. It is also a great marketing tool for your end product.

While the National Beef Checkoff has and continues to be an excellent tool for building the demand for beef in North Carolina and across the US, the funds collected in the program are specifically for the promotion of the beef and the overall beef industry. North Carolina keeps 50 cents from each $1.00 collected in the state; these funds can be used only within specific guidelines that involved promotion of beef.

On October 6, there will be a North Carolina Cattle Industry Assessment Referendum. If the referendum passes, the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association would collect $1.00 per head sold in addition to the National Beef Checkoff.
Funds collected from the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association would stay in the state and allow for the enhancement of programs for our youth, defense against laws and regulations detrimental to the industry, research and education designed to assist in production of cattle in the state and promotion of North Carolina cattle.

Producers may request a refund within 30 days of sale. The request shall be in writing and be submitted by mail to the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association. An equitable portion of the proceeds of the assessment would go to the North Carolina Dairy Producers Association to assist with their programs in these areas.

There will be opportunity for absentee voting in addition to the regular on site voting. All County Extension offices will be polling places for this referendum on October 6.

**HERBICIDE CARRYOVER**

Excerpt from: *Herbicide Carryover in Hay, Manure, Compost, and Grass Clippings: Caution to Hay Producers, Livestock Owners, Farmers, and Home Gardeners* by NCSU Extension Specialist, Dr. Jeanine Davis and Dr. Sue Ellen Johnson – Submitted by Emily Herring, Livestock Agent, Pender County

Aminopyralid, clopyralid, fluroxypyr, picloram, and triclopyr are in a class of herbicides known as *pyridine carboxylic acids*. They are used to control a wide variety of broadleaf weeds, including several toxic plants that can sicken or kill animals that graze them or eat them in hay. Based on USDA-EPA and European Union agency evaluations, when these herbicides are applied to hay fields or pasture, the forage can be safely consumed by horses and livestock – including livestock produced for human consumption. These herbicides pass through the animal’s digestive tract and are excreted in urine and manure. They can remain active in the manure even after it is composted. They can also remain active on hay, straw, and grass clippings taken from treated areas.

The chemicals of greatest concern are picloram (Surmount and Grazon P+D), clopyralid (Curtail and Redeem R&P), and aminopyralid (Milestone and Forefront) because they can remain active in hay, grass clippings, piles of manure, and compost for an unusually long time. These herbicides eventually break down through exposure to sunlight, soil microbes, heat, and moisture. Depending on the situation, the herbicides can be deactivated in as few as 30 days, but some field reports indicate that breakdown can take as long as *three to four years*. Degradation is particularly slow in piles of manure and compost. When mulches, manures, or composts with herbicide activity are applied to fields or gardens to raise certain vegetables, flowers, or other broadleaf crops, potentially devastating damage can occur.

If you raise hay, make sure you know if any herbicide used has the potential to remain active in the manure or urine after consumption. Communicate with landowners – verbally and in writing – that the manure is not usable as a fertilizer, soil amendment, or compost for broadleaf plants. Custom applicators should communicate exactly what products are applied to customers’ fields and provide a copy of the herbicide label(s). The labels provide all the information on restrictions. The herbicides of concern can also remain active on the hay itself. Be cautious about selling or giving away old hay for use as mulch or for making compost. The hay can be sold for consumption by livestock and horses, but be sure the purchaser is aware that the herbicide will pass through into the manure. Advise people feeding this hay to their animals to spread the manure on grass pastures or grass hayfields, being sure to follow all safety guidelines and regulations. According to the herbicide labels, plant materials treated with these herbicides should not be considered safe for growing sensitive crops until the materials are completely decayed.

If you buy hay for your animals, ask the farmer or seller which herbicides, if any, were used in producing the hay. Consult a copy of the herbicide label from a farmer or online. A simple indicator that these herbicides were not used in the production of hay is the presence of legumes, such as lespedeza, clovers, or alfalfa. The absence of legumes in hay, however, does not mean that these herbicides are present. If you do not know the herbicide “history” of the hay, do not sell or give away the manure from animals who consumed the hay for use in growing plants or to make compost as it may contain one of the herbicides of concern. Manures that contain these herbicides can be safely spread on grass pastures or grass hayfields. Contact your local Extension agent or NRCS office to develop a manure management plan. For more
Contagious ecthyma, also known as orf or sore mouth, is a zoonotic disease, which means that it is easily transmitted from animals to humans. It induces acute pustular lesions in the skin of goats, sheep, and wild ruminants worldwide. Young animals are the most susceptible to contracting the disease. Kids and lambs can contract sore mouth after a few weeks of birth. However, sore mouth outbreaks in young animals are most frequent during postweaning.

Sore mouth is caused by a poxivirus related to the pseudocowpox and bovine papular stomatitis virus family. The virus is epitheliotropic, which means that it has an affinity for the skin; infection occurs by direct contact. The period of incubation is relatively short. Susceptible animals usually develop the first signs of the disease 4 to 7 days after exposure that persists for 1 to 2 weeks or for longer periods. The disease affects sheep and goats; it is marked by an increase in incidence and severity if not controlled among small ruminant herds.

Sore mouth outbreaks occur more frequently during periods of extreme temperatures such as late summer and winter. The disease initially presents itself as papules (elevation of the skin) that progresses to blisters (fluid-filled pouches) or pustules before encrusting. These lesions are found in the skin of the lips. They can spread around the outside and inside of the mouth, face, lips, ears, vulva, lets, scrotum, teats, and feet, usually in the interdigital region. Extensive lesions on the feet can lead to lameness in adults and young animals. The infection is spread by direct and indirect contact from infected animals or by contact with infected tissue or saliva containing the virus.

During the course of the disease, blisters eventually break down to release more of the virus and later develop into wet pus-like scabs. These lesions can persist for 3 weeks and can become a site for the development of secondary bacterial infections. Scab tissues are extremely painful, to the point of preventing sick animals from eating. Because infected kids present lesions on their gums and lips, does and ewes can acquire lesions on their udder. The lesions on the udder are due to direct contamination during nursing that causes mastitis (inflammation of the mammary gland) in does and ewes. Severe to moderate enlargement of the lymph nodes, arthritis, and pneumonia resulting from sore mouth has been reported. Most animals acquire immunity after contracting the disease; however, subsequent outbreaks in herds are common with a less severe form of the disease.

Diagnosis is based on the characteristics and location of the lesions, as well as a herd history of previous outbreaks. A definitive diagnosis is based on viral isolation and an immunologic test.

Lesions can be treated with a single application of 3 percent iodine solution. Animals are cured spontaneously in most cases. In severe cases of secondary bacterial infection, the usage of a systemic antibiotic is recommended. It is important to treat the lesions on the teats (nipples) of the does to prevent the development of mastitis. For infected kids, be sure they are fed artificially.

**Prevention and Control**

- Minimize transportation stress.
- Always quarantine new animals before introducing them to the rest of the herd.
- In case of an outbreak, separate sick animals in a pen for treatment.
- Always feed and treat sick animals after feeding the herd.
- Incinerate gloves and all tissues that come in contact with lesions extracted from sick animals. The virus can persist in animal tissue for a long period of time, becoming a source of contamination.
- Always wear gloves when handling sick animals and vaccines as humans can contract the disease.
- Avoid the consumption of milk from does that present lesions on the teats and udder.
- A systematic vaccination of the entire herd is recommended only during outbreaks. There are two vaccines available for use in sheep. The vaccines are modified versions of live viruses and are administered topically. A
Small dose of the vaccine is brushed over light scarifications of the skin on the inside of the thigh. These vaccines will induce a mild form of the disease. In sheep flocks where there is a prevalence of the disease, lambs should be vaccinated at the age of 1 month with a booster 2 to 3 months later. There is currently no recommended vaccination protocol for goats since the sheep vaccine is not FDA-approved for use in goats.

Consult your local veterinarian for disease treatment and prevention.

NC Coastal Farmers Eligible for Grant Awards

Grants totaling $750,000 over a three-year period will be awarded for new farm enterprises that demonstrate innovative opportunities in production, processing and marketing.

The program is managed by Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI-USA) as the “Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund (TCRF)”. RAFI coordinates information workshops, accept applications, awards grants and monitors the results.

Supported by the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, the grant program is designed to help farmers in faming and to maintain the economic base of North Carolina’s rural communities. All farmers are eligible. Priority is given to projects that provide opportunities for a new generation of farmers and to applicants who had tobacco income at the time of the Master Settlement Agreement.

Eligibility: Qualifying producers must be farmers or farmer “groups” actively engaged in full or part-time faming in the Coastal Region which includes the Counties of Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Cartaret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, New Hanover, North Hampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Washington and Wayne Counties.

Awards: The maximum amount available to individual farmers is $10,000 and $30,000 for collaborative farmer or community projects. Grant applications for the Coastal Region are due December 16, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. The timeline for submitting grants in other NC regions can be seen at: ncfarmgrants.org

“The TCRF is designed to help farmers put their own ideas to work to develop new income sources,” said Jason Roehrig, RAFI Program Director. “Through cost-share grants, we can help reduce the risk of trying new ideas.” Examples of past projects have included improved greenhouse vegetable production, supplies for pasture-raised livestock, expansion of nursery operations, farmer’s market assistance and more.

“We anticipate a large number of farmers benefitting from this unique opportunity,” said William Upchurch, Executive Director of the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. The ultimate impact is preservation of the family farm.

Interested farmers and representatives of agricultural cooperatives or associations may obtain applications at ncfarmgrants.org or by calling 919-542-1396 ext. 205.

Forage Management Tips

September

- Fertilize and lime cool season grasses.
- Keep the grazing pressure on the summer grasses and completely use them before grazing cool season forages.
- Continue to watch for armyworms on established and seedling stands of forages.
- Overseed or no-till winter annuals onto summer perennial grass after they have been closely grazed.
- Make a winter feed supply inventory so deficiencies can be avoided now (by purchasing hay or planting more winter pasture).

October

- Finish using summer grasses before grazing the cool season ones.
- Overseed bermudagrass and other warm season grasses with winter annuals such as rye if you haven't already done so.
Sample soils to be overseeded or planted next spring so the limestone can be applied early enough to react; two to four months are required for lime to effectively neutralize soil acidity.

Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact an agent of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension in your county.

**Upcoming Events**

**SEPTEMBER**

18th – Animal Waste Operator Training - Duplin County – 1 – 4 pm 3 Hour CE

23rd – Animal Waste Operator Training – Wayne County – 9 am – 4 pm – 6 Hour CE

**OCTOBER**

5th – 10th – Onslow County Fair – Jacksonville, NC

15th – 25th – NC State Fair – Raleigh, NC

**NOVEMBER**

19th - Animal Waste Operator Training – Southeast Pork Conference – Time and Location TBA - 6 Hour CE

24th – Animal Waste Operator Training – Wilson County – 5:30 -8:30 pm - 2.5 Hour CE

“HELPING PEOPLE PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK”

**The Onslow County Fair is Coming to Town**

The Onslow County Fair will be here October 5th, 2009, through Saturday October 10th, 2009. Crafts, sewing items, baked goods, home canned goods are all needed to be judged. Young and old can enter. Entries to be judged can be entered on October 5th from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. Some flowers entries may be entered the next morning.

Fair books are available at all branches of the county's public library or at the Onslow County Extension Office. All entries into the fair for judging have to have been completed within the last year and all participants with items to be entered have to be a resident of Onslow County. A complete listing of all the rules can be found in the fair book. There’s a category for everyone from agricultural exhibits to arts and crafts, to canning and baked goods.

Please join in the fun by entering an item or items into the fair. The money awards are not large but the ribbons are special.

Tuesday, October 6th, a talent show will be held with youth from all parts of the county. Talent goes on parade at 7:00 pm. We need everyone to get involved with the fair to show those that attend all the talent we have in our county.

The price to get in the fair this year will be $5.00. Children under the age of three get in free as well as seniors age 65 and older get in free. Ride tickets will be sold separately on the midway. The fair opens on October 5th, at 6:00 pm. Tuesday, October 6th, through Friday October 9th, at 4:00 pm and Saturday, October 10th, at 12 noon. If you have any questions regarding the entries to the fair or a fair booth, please call us at 455-5873.