

UPDATE ON CAFO REGULATIONS: COLORADO AND THE NATION

On November 3, Colorado voters approved Amendment 14, which provides a legislative mandate to regulate housed commercial swine feeding operations. The full text of Amendment 14 can be read in the 1998 Ballot Analysis section on the web at: www.state.co.us.

Now the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment [specifically the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) and the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC)] will adopt regulations to implement the legislative mandate. The AQCC must promulgate air quality regulations concerning the control of odorous emissions; the AQCC has a rulemaking hearing set for February 18, 1999. The WQCC must promulgate regulations concerning individual discharge permits, and their rulemaking hearing is scheduled for February 8, 1999.

Prior to the February rulemaking hearings, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will have a series of work group meetings. The work group is open to the public, and all interested parties are invited to participate. Work group meetings are scheduled for: December 2, December 9, and December 15 from 11:00-4:00. If you would like to be added to the work group mailing list or would like more information about the work group meetings, please call Diana at (303)692-3469.

The state may be focused on hogs for now, but the federal government (USDA and EPA) recently developed a Unified National Animal Feeding Operations Strategy to minimize water quality and public health risks associated with all types of animal feeding operations. The strategy establishes a national expectation that all animal feeding operations will develop and implement comprehensive nutrient management plans by the year 2008. The complete USDA/EPA Unified National Animal Feeding Operations Strategy can be found on the web at: <http://www.nhq.usda.gov/cleanwater/afo/>.

Comments on the draft strategy will be accepted at the NRCS national office through January 19, 1999 (Denise Coleman, USDA NRCS Attn: AFO, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013-2890 or email: denise_c.coleman@usda.gov). If you would rather make your comments verbally, you can attend the public listening session in Denver on December 14 from 2:00-5:00 (Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1750 Welton St.). Speakers can sign-up from 1:30 on, and each speaker will be allowed 5 minutes, in the order that they sign-up.

CSU PLANS DO-IT-YOURSELF MANURE MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHOPS

The USDA and EPA recently developed a Unified National Animal Feeding Operations Strategy which establishes a national expectation that all animal feeding operations will develop and implement comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) by the year 2008. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension will hold a series of CNMP workshops throughout northeastern Colorado in December 1998. These workshops are

for livestock producers who would like to learn more about what a CNMP entails. Participants will develop a CNMP for their own livestock operation at the workshops.

Workshops are scheduled as follows:

December 10 Fort Morgan Extension Office
867-2493

December 14 Sterling Extension Office
522-3200

December 15 Eckley Community Center
332-4151

December 18 Greeley Extension Office
356-4000 ext. 4465

Workshops will run from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. (lunch is included). To register, call the phone number corresponding to the workshop you'd like to attend. The extension office will send you a list of information to bring with you so you can develop your own CNMP at the workshop.