

# Manure Management Plan Short Form

**All agricultural operations in Pennsylvania, regardless of size, that land apply manure or agricultural process wastewater are required to have a permit or approval from DEP, unless the land application follows current planning standards to manage nutrients and protect water quality. This planning requirement also applies to all agricultural operations that manage an Animal Concentration Area (ACA) or pasture.**

Pennsylvania Chapter 91 regulations address pollution control and prevention at agricultural operations. Section 91.36 identifies the Manure Management Manual as the standard for developing a Manure Management Plan. DEP's Land Application of Manure: A Supplement to Manure Management for Environmental Protection (361-0300-002) defines what are acceptable planning templates for a Manure Management Plan.

For agricultural Operations not defined as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) or Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO), the Manure Management Plan Short Form is one acceptable template. The Short Form can be found online at DEP's eLibrary. Printed copies can be obtained from your local County Conservation District or from DEP's Regional Offices.

The Manure Management Plan Short Form was introduced in 2024 to offer an option for agricultural operations that pose a limited environmental risk to meet the planning requirements described in 25 Pa. Code Section 91.36(b).

## **To use the Manure Management Plan Short Form, an agricultural operation must meet all of the following criteria:**

- Will continue to maintain less than 8,000 pounds (lbs) combined weight of livestock and poultry.
- For every 1,000 lbs of livestock and poultry on the operation, it will maintain at least one acre of land receiving manure (pasture, garden, or crop).
- Currently and will continue to import less than 3,000 lbs of manure for personal use.
- Manure that is mechanically applied will be spread evenly across all acreage receiving manure.
- Operation will maintain at least 100-foot setbacks from all environmentally sensitive areas.
  - NOTE: reduced setbacks are available to operations completing the Manure Management Plan Workbook; however, if using the Short Form, the manure application setbacks must be 100-foot.
- Operation will not apply manure between December 15th and February 28th or anytime the ground is frozen at least 4 inches deep or snow-covered.
- Operation does not and will not generate or apply liquid or semisolid manure or store manure in a liquid or semisolid manure storage facility.
- All solid manure is currently and will continue to be stored under roof or cover and on a permanent, improved, stabilized and compact surface with runoff controls to prevent pollution.
- Manure that is transported off-site is currently and will continue to be land applied according to a site-specific Manure or Nutrient Management Plan or transported to a permitted waste disposal site.
- Currently and will continue to maintain all pastures to maintain at least 3 inches of vegetation and 70% perennial vegetative cover when animals are present on pasture.
- There are no barnyards, feedlots, loafing areas, exercise lots or other animal confinement areas prohibiting the growth of pasture.

**If an agricultural operation is not able to continuously meet all the above criteria, then the Manure Management Plan Short Form cannot be used.**