

EPA Regulation to Address Water Pollution from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

Issue

The Utah demonstration project to assist owners of animal feeding operations (AFO) partly funded by an earmark in the NRCS budget has and continues to be an example for the nation.

Update

The attached Animal Feeding Operations Program Report (January 2004) accounts for the completion of the Utah AFO inventory and the use of manure management grants to assist Utah landowners targeted by EPA regulation.

How this has affected your constituents

Utah is ahead of EPA regulation that could have required 385 AFOs to be permitted as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) since they did not contain all runoff on their operation, but potentially would have been a source of pollution. The first 2 years of the NRCS earmark (\$150,000 per year) had been combined with state manure management and NPS 319 grant funds to cost share with owners of operations to correct problems.

The third and fourth years of funding (\$250,000 per year) have helped fund a 3-person team of specialists to follow-up with and assist the owners of potential CAFOs develop nutrient management plans and make application for funding to address the discharge and/or management of manure or waste water from their respective properties. The funding has gone to the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (\$81,000), Utah Farm Bureau (\$86,000) and USU Extension (\$76,000) for technical assistance with the balance to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to administer the contracts.

What you can do about this issue

Continue to support the earmark in the Utah NRCS budget for implementing the Utah AFO/CAFO Strategy. The request was initially for \$500,000 per year for 5 years. The need for funding will continue at least through 2006, the EPA and Utah deadline for compliance.

Contacts

Randy Greenhalgh (435) 623-0845
Larry Johnson (435) 793-5625
Bill Rasmussen (435) 789-1383
Ray Loveless (801) 229-3838
George Hopkin (801) 538-7177