

Nutrient Management Commission releases 2012 annual report

DOVER – The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission has released its 2012 Annual Report, documenting the progress Delaware farmers and other nutrient handlers have made in reducing nutrient runoff.

The report, recently submitted to Governor Jack Markell and members of the General Assembly, reviews accomplishments for fiscal year 2012, including continued implementation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) regulations and the drafting of the state's first CAFO permit.

All of Delaware's cropland and nutrient-applied land is managed under nutrient management plans developed by certified consultants.

Among the highlights of the report:

- More than 54,000 tons of poultry litter and manure were relocated from Delaware farms during the year, divided almost equally between relocation within the state for land application, relocation outside of the state for land application and to relocation to alternative use projects.
- The Nutrient Management Program continued working with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to implement CAFO regulations. Nutrient Management staff conducted 281 site visits during 2012, up from 130 in 2011 due to increased staffing.

Under Delaware's Nutrient Management Law, farmers and other nutrient handlers are required to develop and implement phosphorus limited nutrient management plans, maintain

nutrient handling records, maintain nutrient certification, and submit an annual report. The law covers animal feeding operations, row crop farmers, horse operations, golf course and lawn care companies.

A copy of the report is available at <http://de.gov/4ml>, or by calling (302) 698-4500.

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Contact:

Dan Shortridge

Chief of Community Relations

Delaware Department of Agriculture

302-698-4520