Government Regulation of Nutrient Application

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Delaware and Maryland

• **Anyone** applying fertilizer must be certified.
• Delaware State regulations adopted by the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission in 2007 **prohibit** certified nutrient handlers from applying **commercial and manure-based fertilizer** from Dec. 7 to Feb. 15.
• Failure to comply with the winter application regulations may result in a compliance and enforcement hearing before the commission.
Maryland

• Commercial applicators are required to have Fertilizer Application Certification or be under direct supervision of certified applicator. Subject to civil fines from incorrect application; $1,000 first offense, $2,000 second offense.

• There is a zero phosphorus law in Maryland..?..?..
Regulations to date

• Nebulas,
  – Broad over reaching with lots of loop holes.
  – Maryland, all manure is incorporated within 48hrs
    • But effluent can be applied via pivot.
  – No Phosphorus, unless it is needed.

• Urban is a large target.. But regs broad.
A nutrient management plan is defined in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Standard (590) as, “Managing the amount, source, placement, form and timing of the application of nutrients and soil amendments.” The NRCS nutrient management standard (590) is the guidance provided to NRCS field staff and other planners when providing technical assistance to producers participating in voluntary programs.

The purpose of the 590 standard is to meet the nutrient needs of the crop to be grown, while minimizing the loss of nutrients to surface and ground water. The purposes of a nutrient management plan are:

- To adequately supply nutrients for plant production.
- To properly utilize manure or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source.
- To minimize agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground water resources.
- To maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of soil.
Where is Oklahoma

• Two Words
• Down Stream
• As Corn states go down or bend the target will move south.
• Commodity groups State and National are spending time in the Chesapeake Bay.
It is a War, they fight dirty

• There are battle grounds and lines are being drawn.
• Urban areas are targeted.
• Urban Legislators are targeted.
• $$$$$$$ are flowing.
What should be done

• Just do better....... 
• BMP’s
• Be able to show adoption of improved systems, techniques and technologies.
• The N-Rich Strip and GreenSeeker.
• Increase Soil sampling 
• Conservation Tillage
Final Thought

• GO BEYOND AG to AGVOCATE
Keep up the Great Work!!!

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