Open Session: CBP Animal Waste Management Systems (AWMS) BMP Expert Panel Stakeholder Forum

Thursday, April 7, 2016
2:30 – 4:00 PM
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23778/

Welcome & Introductions

- Jeremy Hanson provided introductory remarks on the expert panel process, and the Animal Waste Management Systems Panel's role in the Phase 6 Watershed Model, and the panel charge. Also presented was a tentative timeline for panel work. See his presentation for more information.

Panel Introductions

- Panel members introduced themselves and provided background on their research and experience.

Stakeholder Presentations

- Tom Simpson and Ron Korcak provided comments and input on animal waste management systems to the panel. Please refer to their presentation slides for more information.
    - Broad concerns include whether AWMS is a BMP or an integral part of any confined animal operation, and whether there would be widespread implementation of these systems in the timeframe that the Bay TMDL goals are operating under.
- Cropper: The pasturing of the beef cattle – in some states, they were pasturing on basically concrete pads, some with roofs, but the only problem I had with those is that they were poorly cited. I don't know if we solved the problem or made it worse. Some are constructed on steep slopes, and it causes significant runoff. So we'd better make sure we have a place we can build a filter strip.
    - Simpson: The only thing that was made worse was the concrete, since that's an impervious surface. We need to encourage folks to construct these on gentle slopes they could use for the filter strip. In addition, you're not dealing with massive amounts of manure at any one time, but if you have a concrete pad, you're scraping it frequently and putting it in your storage structure or putting it to direct use. When you're doing feeding that frequently, that trying to collect and store it is pretty important. But if all you do is put down an impervious surface with an ineffective filter strip, it won't get better.
- Risse: I think a lot of the changes and issues you're suggesting are important, and we've discussed some already. But a lot of them fall outside the scope of this committee in particular, and may need to be addressed by other panels. For example, the storage – we know the length of storage you have affects how much ultimate loss you have, but maybe that plays more once the manure is land applied – how we can address losses in this expert panel or maybe make a recommendation to others to address is. That may be an issue we need to discuss more.
    - Simpson: I think once it leaves for agronomic use or transport, then that's completely outside of the purview of this panel. I think the runoff from loafing lots, etc., are more distinctly more part of the AWMS. Also, I recognize that a lot of the points I've brought up are outside of the scope of this panel, but are still important and worth bringing up for the CBP community.

- Cropper: I thought your comment about how much N is actually available for runoff – I have a slide from Penn State talking about dairy cows on pasture. They excrete 180 lbs of N on pasture, and about 25% is recycled back into the pasture. But there's so many other loss pathways, and runoff may be a small portion of the N loss whereas denitrification may make up a huge portion of the N loss.
    - Simpson: I assume the focus of this expert panel is more on confined operations and the areas around them, and storage facilities associated with them.
- Risse: Georgia NRCS had a CIG project where we called these things winter feeding areas, and we built big barns with concrete pads and covered areas and found similar results where around the edges they became messes regardless of how far out you extended the concrete. The wider you make it, the higher the chance you'll be next to a water source. What we found is that you not feed them all in the same place and that you invest in feeding areas that you can move around the areas of pasture to distribute the waste more uniformly.

Discussion

- Cropper: Thinking about fall application of nutrients and winter – we have pretty open winters, and another thing to consider is having a type of manure that you can knife in, especially if they're slurries from dairy operations. It might be a smart way to go. The 180 day storage may not be sufficient, because if you're doing it in the fall and spreading it on the ground, then it might not soak into the frozen ground, and that would increase runoff.
- Simpson: I was on the WTWG call this morning, and heard that all of the expert panels were going to submit preliminary reports by April 21st. Does that include this panel?
    - Dubin: Since this panel is just starting up, we would not expect them to be able to develop preliminary recommendations at this early stage of their work.

Participants:
Lindsey Gordon, CRC
Chesapeake Bay Commission
Chris Brosch, DDA
Jason Keppler, MDA
Lindsay Thompson, DE-MD Agribusiness Assoc.
Rachel Rhodes, MDA
Susan Marquart
Maryland Department of the Environment
Ann Baldwin, NRCS
Glenn Carpenter, NRCS
Jim Cropper, Northeast Pasture Consortium
Alana Hartman, WVDEP
Bevin Bucheister, CBC
Marilyn Hershey
Ron Ohrel, Mid-Atlantic Dairy Assoc.
Tom Simpson, Aqua Terra Science
Greg Sandi, MDE
Mark Dubin, UMD
Pat Gleason, EPA
Victor Clark
Amanda Barber, Cortland Co. NY SWCD District

Panel Members:
Jeremy Hanson, VT
Greg Albrecht, NY Dept. of Ag./Watershed Technical Workgroup Representative
Brian Benham, VT
Pete Vanderstappen, NRCS- PA
Mark Risse, Univ. of Georgia
Shawn Hawkins, Tennessee
John Moyle, UMD Extension
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Doug Hamilton, Oklahoma State
Ashley Toy, EPA
Matt Johnston, UMD/Modeling Team Representative