

About the Nutrient and Water Policy Education Program

Public policies, regulations and programs are regularly developed, debated, and changed to address the potential environmental impacts of agriculture. Producers, agri-businesses, local officials, rural residents and others have questions about current and emerging policy developments and their impacts. These questions relate to nutrient and water resource management and planning at the farm, community and watershed level, land use and property rights, finance and funding, and the potential and challenges of performance-based policies, such as water quality credit trading.

The Nutrient and Water Policy Education Program provides a broad “picture” of policy issues and impacts related to water resources for farmers, rural residents and other stakeholders and includes:

- Identification of the underlying problem giving rise to the policy issue,
- Alternatives for addressing the issue,

- Probable environmental and economic consequences of policy alternatives.

The program encourages people to reach their own judgment as to which alternative to support and gives information and assistance to help them participate effectively in policy decision-making.

The Nutrient and Water Policy Education Program brings together teams of faculty and staff to develop and deliver timely materials. The program helps people understand the implications and opportunities to participate on state and regional policy topics like: CAFO’s (concentrated animal feeding operations), CSP (Conservation Security Program), the ACRE Program (Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment), and water quality credit trading.

The program’s website, *Nutrient and Water Policy Update*, provides timely, balanced educational resources that Penn State faculty and staff have developed on emerging nutrient and water policy issues.

The website includes:

- Publications that help increase understanding of current nutrient and water policies, proposed changes to policy, implications and public participation opportunities.
- Training and presentation materials for educators and others to stay up-to-date on policy issues, trends, and importance to Pennsylvania.
- Collaborations and partnerships between local, state, regional, and national environmental policy education initiatives. Program faculty and staff collaborate with other universities and organizations at the state level and through the USDA funded Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Program, Chesapeake Bay Program’s Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, and other regional groups.
- Contacts for more information on nutrient and water policy for up-to-date information.

Selected materials available on the website:

- A Primer on Water Quality Credit Trading in the Mid-Atlantic Region
- Water Quality Credit Trading in Pennsylvania (also available for Virginia and West Virginia)
- Access and Allocation of Water Resources in Pennsylvania
- Questions and Answers About the ACRE Program
- Nutrient Budgets for Pennsylvania Cropland
- Federal Agricultural Conservation and Water Quality Policies
- Emerging Information and Policies for Agriculture and Air Quality

Penn State Extension publications are also available by contacting county Extension offices or the Agricultural Publications Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Nutrient and Water Policy Education Program

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For more information about this program visit: <http://\nutrientpolicy.aers.psu.edu>

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Nutrient & Water Policy Update

Resources for Pennsylvanians
To help understand & shape environmental policy

<http://nutrientwaterpolicy.aers.psu.edu>

Nutrient and Water Policy Education A Cooperative Extension Program

Department of Agricultural Economics
and Rural Sociology,
College of Agricultural Sciences

In cooperation with

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Water
Program, USDA Cooperative State
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