Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) Rule

- **Drivers for a new rule**
  - Chesapeake Bay Executive Order – E.O. 13508
  - Settlement Agreement with Chesapeake Bay Foundation

- “By April 30, 2013, EPA will propose revisions to its CAFO regulations to more effectively achieve the objectives of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.”

  - **Expanding the universe of CAFOs**, such as
    - Easier designation of an AFO as a CAFO
    - Increasing the number of animal operations that would qualify as CAFOs.

  - **More stringent permitting requirements for land application of manure, litter and process wastewater**, such as
    - “Next Generation" NMPs
    - Manure transfer reporting and recordkeeping.

- EPA will take final action by April 30, 2014.
Proposed CAFO Reporting Rule Withdrawn

- In July, EPA withdrew the proposed CAFO reporting rule.
- The proposal was partly a response to a settlement agreement with environmental petitioners.
- After additional analysis and public comments, EPA determined that it can achieve the objectives of the Clean Water Act without collecting CAFO information through a rule.
- EPA may use existing tools, such as site visits or individual information collection requests to fill information gaps.

Background

- October 2011-- EPA proposed 2 options
  - Option 1: Would require permitted and unpermitted CAFOs to submit:
    - Contact information, location, permit coverage, number and type of animals, and number of acres available for land application of manure.
  - Option 2: Same as Option 1--only from CAFOs in high priority watersheds.
Nonpoint Source Control Program

- EPA is in the process of revising our guidelines to the states for the §319 program.
- Emphasis in the Guidance on:
  - Implementation
  - Watershed-based plans
  - Coordination with USDA conservation programs
- Series of conference calls with stakeholders, including agriculture on the draft.
- Draft guidance should be out for public comment by the end of the month.
TMDLs

- The states and EPA have completed over 45,000 TMDLs.

- EPA is working with states to develop a vision for the future of the program.

- Chesapeake Bay TMDL implementation is moving forward.
  - States have developed their final Watershed Implementation Plans.
Drinking Water: Protecting the Source
FFA Lesson Plans

- Water in your community: Where does it come from? Where does it go?
- Water on and under the farm
- What is the source of my drinking water?
- Threats to water quality in agricultural areas
- Relationship between soil and drinking water quality
- Drinking water safety -- Health concerns and testing
- Drinking Water Treatment
- Drinking Water Quality and Quantity Concerns On and Near the Farm
- Who Protects Source Water?
- How Does the Government Protect Public Water?
- Land Use Decision Makers and Their Roles in Drinking Water Protection
- Introduction to Farm Conservation Practices
- Farm Conservation Plans and Source Water Protection
- Nutrient Management and Source Water Protection
- Water Protection in Rural Communities: Funding and Technical Assistance
- Source Water Protection Downstream
- Source Water Protection in Agricultural Communities: Watershed Management
- Water Use and Conservation
- Climate Change Impacts on Agricultural Water Resources Lesson 19
- Source Water Protection and My Community
USDA’s Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Update

- Synthesis report on 13 National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA)-CEAP watershed studies.
  - Lessons learned across and within watersheds
    - Practice selection and implementation
    - Monitoring and modeling
    - Socio-economic factors in adoption

- 2-page summary, 6 fact sheets, and book --“How to Build Better Agricultural Conservation Programs to Protect Water Quality”

CEAP website

EPA’s Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee

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Del Monte Foods
Walnut Creek, CA

Mr. David Petty (Deputy)
Iowa River Ranch
Eldora, IA

Ms. Peggy Beltrone
Exergy Integrated Systems
Great Falls, MT

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CA Specialty Crops Council
Tulare, CA

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Bunker Hill Farm
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Outreach/Communications
Advice from EPA’s Ag FACA

- “EPA should develop a coordinated public engagement plan to exchange information on agricultural and environmental issues. “
  - Data (science, technology, economic)
  - Outreach program, materials
  - Outreach to key leaders
  - Avoid inconsistencies between government agencies
  - Diverse group of stakeholders – trusted technical sources
Next Steps

- How can EPA better communicate with CCAs and the companies, organizations, and farmers CCAs work for?