

Comment Register
Proposed Phosphorus Management Tool Regulation
November 4-8, 2013

No.	Source	Date Received	Form	Date Acknowledged	Form of Acknowledgment
181	Sam Parker	11/04/13	Form Letter	11/04/13	mail
182	David-Beverly Altvater	11/04/13	Form Ltr w/note	11/04/13	mail
183	Alan Butler	11/04/13	Form Letter	11/04/13	mail
184	Elizabeth Butler	11/04/13	Form Letter	11/04/13	mail
185	Sharon MacNeal	11/04/13	Form Letter	11/04/13	mail
186	David W. Macneal	11/04/13	Form Letter	11/04/13	mail
187	David Barton	11/04/13	Form Letter	11/04/13	mail
188	David & Beverly Altvater	11/04/13	Postcard	same	
189	David Wood, Jr.	11/04/13	Postcard	11/04/13	mail
190	Ron Darnell	11/04/13	Postcard	11/04/13	mail
191	John W. Lee	11/02/13	email	11/04/13	email
192	Gary King	11/02/13	email	11/04/13	email
193	Daniel Heller	11/04/13	Form Ltr Email	11/04/13	email
194	Rocky Abell	11/04/13	Form Ltr Email	11/04/13	email
195	Holly Collick	11/04/13	Form Ltr Email	11/04/13	email
196	Sarah T. Chrisholm	11/04/13	Form Ltr Email	11/05/13	email
197	Sandra Wilson	11/05/13	Form Ltr Email	11/05/13	email
198	Dennis C. Nagel, Jr	11/05/13	Form Letter	11/05/13	mail
199	Kimberly Pruitt	11/05/13	Form Lr w/note	11/05/13	mail
200	Doris Carey	11/05/13	Letter	11/05/13	mail
201	Jeffrey D. Rathell, Sr.	11/05/13	Form Letter	11/05/13	mail
202	Henry Tran	11/05/13	Postcard	11/05/13	mail
203	Donna and Gerald Dumsha	11/05/13	Postcard	11/05/13	mail
204	Curt Lambertson	11/05/13	Postcard	11/05/13	mail
205	Joe Layton	11/05/13	Postcard	11/05/13	mail
206	Robert C. Fry	11/05/13	Email Letter	11/05/13	email
207	Lee Troyer	11/06/13	Email	11/06/13	email
208	Richard W. Thomas	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
209	Clifford P. Cooper	11/06/13	Letter	11/06/13	mail
210	Samuel W. Hall, Sr.	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
211	Susan J. Hall	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
212	Joanne A. Perry	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
213	Rebecca Hall	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
214	Douglas Perry	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
215	Samuel W. Hall, Jr.	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
216	Frederick Bennett	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
217	Jennifer Bennett	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
218	Randy Patey	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
219	Randy Patey	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
220	William Carmean	11/06/13	Postcard	11/06/13	mail
221	Lewis Smith	11/06/13	Letter	11/06/13	mail

222	Wicomico Co Council & Co Exec	11/06/13	Letter	11/06/13	mail
223	Steven Hostetler	11/06/13	Form Letter	11/06/13	mail
224	Destiny ?	11/06/13	Form Letter	no return address	
225	James L. McNaughton, Ph.D.	11/07/13	Email Letter	11/07/13	email
226	Donald Leishear	11/07/13	Postcard	11/07/13	mail
227	David G. Pollock	11/07/13	Postcard	11/07/13	mail
228	Tammy Sue Pollock	11/07/13	Postcard	11/07/13	mail
229	Patricia A. Rhodes	11/07/13	Postcard	11/07/13	mail
230	C. Temple Rhodes, Jr.	11/07/13	Postcard	11/07/13	mail
231	Wayne K. Evans	11/07/13	Form Letter	11/07/13	mail
232	Donna Bradshaw	11/05/13	Email Form Ltr	11/08/13	email
233	Max Schnoor	11/07/13	Email	11/08/13	email
234	Rick Smith	11/07/13	Email	11/08/13	email
235	Janet Stiles Fulton	11/07/13	Email Letter	11/08/13	email
236	JR and Jessica Hess	11/07/13	Email Letter	11/08/13	email
237	Judy Gifford	11/08/13	Email Letter	11/08/13	email
238	Jonathan Quinn	11/08/13	Email	11/08/13	email
239	Kenny and Janice Arney	11/08/13	Form Letter	11/08/13	mail
240	Paul Baker	11/08/13	Letter	11/08/13	mail

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October 21, 2013

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mrs. Mercer,

I am writing because I am terribly worried that the new Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) will have a major negative impact on my farming operation. I am the eighth generation in my family to live on and farm the same land in Salisbury and I hope to pass it on to the ninth. I put a lot of effort into doing the right thing when it comes to preserving the environment for generations to come. I participate in MDA's pesticide container recycling program, I plant cover crops, I practice no-till whenever possible, and many other small things that I believe all add up. I usually back MDA's moves but I know that this one will cost me over \$20,000 annually in added fertilizer expenses. I am a small farmer and in many years, this will make a difference between profitability and loss in my operation.

I humbly ask that you join me in urging MDA to reconsider the implementation of the PMT. Maryland farmers have significantly changed their practices over the past twenty years and I believe that we should allow these changes to show their full effect before making such an extreme change.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter and I appreciate the support that you have historically given to Maryland farmers.

Sincerely,



Sam Parker
7409 Forest Plains Lane
Salisbury, Maryland 21804

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NOV - 4 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

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Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

Nov. 1, 2013
David A. Altwater
Beverly L. Altwater
5496 Landing Neck Rd
Trappe, MD 21673-1647
410-820-7479

Dear Dr. Mercer:

I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Earl Hance has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

Allowing an extended and orderly phase-in of the implementation date of the Phosphorous Management Tool will cause no environmental harm. For decades, the scientific and regulatory community told farmers not to worry about applications of phosphorus to the soil because unless the soil moved, the phosphorus would not move. Recently, that thinking changed and farmers began applying manures based upon their phosphorus content. The phosphorus levels in soils and waters were achieved over decades and will not be corrected for decades, even if this new regulation changes manure application procedures in 2015. Waiting a few more years to allow for an orderly phase-in will not cause any harm to our environment. An orderly phase-in will allow the agricultural community to adjust and make required changes. Additionally, we saw firsthand how difficult and time consuming it was for Maryland CAFO farmers to obtain a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and to think the conservation districts, the University of Maryland Extension, and/or private consultants can do enough side-by-side Phosphorus Site Index/Phosphorus Management Tool comparisons in 2014 to provide valid results does not seem feasible.

Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First and foremost, how can the Department of Agriculture even think about proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

Chicken Farms

- Denied the ability to use manure, a locally produced organic fertilizer, on their own crops. Some chicken farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure they already own. That will have a negative economic impact on the chicken growers.
- Chicken growers who have been selling their manure to other farmers may no longer have customers. Thus a loss of income.
- Chicken growers who have had their chicken houses cleaned with manure removed from the farm without charge may now have to pay somebody to clean the houses and transport the manure since the

cleaning/transporting company may not be able to sell the manure to make a profit and cover the costs of cleaning/transporting.

- Even if the MDA establishes the state storage sites, it will be the chicken growers' responsibility to transport the manure to the site, possibly creating a cost for the chicken growers.
- If the value of manure is lost, then alternative use companies might start charging a fee to accept manure, much like a landfill charges for disposal. If any alternative use companies start operating, and nothing of any magnitude appears to be on the horizon, they might charge a disposal fee instead of buying manure or accepting it for free.

Crop Farmers

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- While commercial fertilizer will help a crop grow, the micronutrients and organic material in animal manure will help grow a larger crop. If yields are lessened due to the loss of organic material and micronutrients, then farmer income will diminish.
- Crop farmers and chicken farmers alike will most likely have to alter their business plans in ways that weaken their ability to withstand adverse growing conditions and/or markets – requiring new expenditures/capital purchases while at the same time artificially reducing their potential yields.
- Crop farmers could see increased effects of drought on their crops as a result of losing poultry litter's organic material that helps build up the soil's moisture retaining capabilities.

Once this regulation is in effect, as it appears it will be and contrary to the wishes of many in the agricultural community, there will be many negative effects to the farming community, individuals like me, and the entire state of Maryland without noticeable improvements in water quality.

Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

Respectfully yours,

David A. + Beverly L. Altwater

Our farm is in its 4th Generation! We want it to continue as our family farm. All these new regulations are going to make it much more difficult with rising prices. We are good stewards of our land, we follow our NMP plan and we are just like everyone else. Why would you harm our environment if we were going to eat what we produce! We grow crops and raise 240,000 chickens a year for a poultry company in Talbot County. Lets be as fair as possible and do tests and get true results, before harming Maryland farmers.

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Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

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Respectfully yours,

Alan Rullo
A. R. Rullo

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Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Respectfully yours,

Elizabeth J. Butler
Butler Farms Inc

Butler Farms
4461 Shelltown Road
Marion, MD 21838

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RECEIVED

NOV 4 2013

Secretary Earl D. Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Crop Farmers

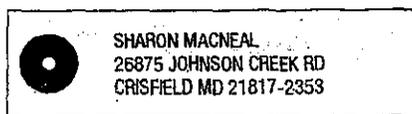
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Respectfully yours,

Sharon
Macneal
(Sheldara Farm)



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Maryland Department of Agriculture
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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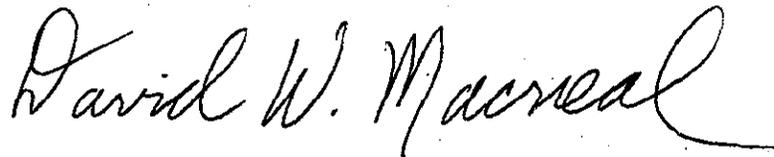
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- Crop farmers could see increased effects of drought on their crops as a result of losing poultry litter's organic material that helps build up the soil's moisture retaining capabilities.

Once this regulation is in effect, as it appears it will be and contrary to the wishes of many in the agricultural community, there will be many negative effects to the farming community, individuals like me, and the entire state of Maryland without noticeable improvements in water quality.

Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

Respectfully yours,



D. W. Macneal
26875 Johnson Creek Rd
Cristfield, Md
21817

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RECEIVED

NOV 4 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Earl D. Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Secretary Hance:

I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as you have stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

Allowing an extended and orderly phase-in of the implementation date of the Phosphorous Management Tool will cause no environmental harm. For decades, the scientific and regulatory community told farmers not to worry about applications of phosphorus to the soil because unless the soil moved, the phosphorus would not move. Recently, that thinking changed and farmers began applying manures based upon their phosphorus content. The phosphorus levels in soils and waters were achieved over decades and will not be corrected for decades, even if this new regulation changes manure application procedures in 2015. Waiting a few more years to allow for an orderly phase-in will not cause any harm to our environment. An orderly phase-in will allow the agricultural community to adjust and make required changes. Additionally, we saw firsthand how difficult and time consuming it was for Maryland CAFO farmers to obtain a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and to think the conservation districts, the University of Maryland Extension, and/or private consultants can do enough side-by-side Phosphorus Site Index/Phosphorus Management Tool comparisons in 2014 to provide valid results does not seem feasible.

Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First and foremost, how can the Department of Agriculture even think about proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

Chicken Farms

- Denied the ability to use manure, a locally produced organic fertilizer, on their own crops, some chicken farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure they already own. That will have a negative economic impact on the chicken growers.
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Respectfully yours,

David Barton

David Barton
26888 Johnson Creek Road
Crisfield, md 21817

Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance stated that he had received only eight comments about the new Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) regulation. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard. Kevin Anderson, President, Maryland Grain Producers Association



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

Our farm is in its 4th generation! We want it to continue for many more as our family farm. With new regulations come new expensive costs which in turn will make farming even more difficult. We are good stewards of our land + follow our NMP. We are quite careful with our practices as we like + eat here as well. We grow crops + raise chickens here in Talbot County. We love the land of our forefathers and do no harm to it or anyone. Lets do some quality testing with true results before harming Maryland farm families any more.

Maryland Farm Bureau is Our voice!!

Sincerely,
Name: David A. + Beverly L. **Associated**
Address: 5496 Landing Neck Rd
Trappe, MD 21673
Phone: 410-820-7479
Email: _____

NOV 18 2013

Our Farms, Our Future

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear Secretary Hance:

This is another tool to force more farmers off their land. When this one is on the books, there will be 20 others on the list. This state just broke due to taxes and a weak state president and party. If we had clean water or air, it would still be dirty because personal would find it, make it up to save their job. Dr James Miller said P205 and K2O does not move in soil it comes from urban areas, lawns, garden, sewage plants, etc. Penn. New York Ca are not doing anything now and no plans on place, I have checked. ~~talked~~ with P.C.A. insurance, rain taxes, etc. there is no more money. The failure of a one party state is

when all the money is gone. We are very very close now. Obama was talking to poor lady in his words ~~to~~ ~~green~~ golfing, she asked Our Farms, Our Future said ~~can't~~ ~~pick~~ ~~up~~ ~~it~~ ~~has~~ ~~by~~ ~~lowering~~ ~~it~~ ~~to~~ ~~lower~~ ~~and~~ ~~poor~~

Name: M. Dawson Wood Jr
Address: 8912 Fisher Rd
Denton, Md 21629
Phone: 410-829-3616

Sincerely,
Email: _____

RECEIVED
189
NOV 4 2013
OFFICE OF THE P

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Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

I am writing in opposition to the recent proposed changes that impact the phosphorus measurement portion of the farmer's Nutrient Management Plans. My primary concerns are centered around the lack of an economic study, lack of viable/economical solutions for any excess poultry litter and the lack of understanding the overall final impact to water quality on the eastern shore. Out of respect for our MD farmers Agriculture and Agriculture related businesses I would ask that the MD Dept of Agriculture slow down, withdraw the P-model and spend more time understanding the above referenced concerns.

RECEIVED

NOV 17 2009

Sincerely,
Name: Ron Darnell
Address: 26821 Hamden Drive
Salisbury MD 21801
Phone: 410 543-1655
Email: Ron.Darnell@hotmail.com

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Our Farms, Our Future

11/4/13

Maryland.gov Mail - Phosphorus



Earl Hance (mailto:earl.hance@maryland.gov)

Phosphorus

John W. Lee <jwl@ueavet.com>

Sat, Nov 2, 2013 at 4:25 PM

To: "Earl Hance (mailto:earl.hance@maryland.gov)" <earl.hance@maryland.gov>

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Based on the ongoing discussions and my belief that there has to be a compromise that will improve the Bay and let production agriculture remain viable. Even though my practice is limited to horses we need a healthy ag community to support the equine industry. For mixed practitioners like my wife the threat to sustainable agriculture could be even more serious. Sincerely, John W. Lee, Jr. DVM and Jane Fassinger, VMD

Sent from my iPhone



New PMT

King, Gary L. <gary.king@plantpioneer.com>
To: "Earl.Hance@maryland.gov" <Earl.Hance@maryland.gov>
Cc: "King, Gary L." <gary.king@plantpioneer.com>

Sat, Nov 2, 2013 at 7:31 PM

Secretary Hance,

I am writing to share my concerns about the new PMT. My Nutrient Management Advisor did a comparison between the old PSI and the new PMT. Using the old PSI as a guideline, I would fall in the low to medium ratings for Phosphorus loss potential. That would allow me to apply 3 tons P/Ac of poultry manure on my corn ground, plus up to 30 # P in a starter fertilizer; using the new PMT all my P Loss Rating Scores came back as high and no additional P can be added. As a farmer who has hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in land, equipment, seed and other inputs, I feel I have to be able to fertilize my crops for their optimal yield potential.

Another point you need to consider, is that I am not a poultry producer with a history of high manure usage. Under the old PSI guidelines, I would be importing about 2,000 tons of poultry manure each year for my 650+ Ac of corn ground. Under the new PMT guidelines, I would not be able to use any of that manure, which in turn means you would have to find another home for that 2,000 tons. That's going to create its own set of problems and will be wasting more tax-payer dollars. Please take into consideration the fact that by not being able to apply this poultry manure for my corn ground, I will have to purchase additional Nitrogen and Potash that would have been available in the poultry litter manure. This would have cost me an additional \$ 180 per/ac or \$117,000 last year.

I would also like for you to look into the role that ditches play in the classification for the Phos Rating Score. My nutrient advisor said that ditches had to be considered as "artificial drainage". By doing so, she said it help throw every field into a High Phos Rating. Please consider taking a close look at that situation and see if any changes are necessary.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary King

Somerset Co. Grain Farmer

Past Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year

9 Year Member of Maryland Soybean Board

11/4/13



Earl Hance -MDA- <earl.hance@maryland.gov>

Maryland Phosphorus Regulation Public Comment

dan@flintrockcorporation.com <dan@flintrockcorporation.com>
To: jo.mercer@maryland.gov
Cc: earl.hance@maryland.gov

Mon, Nov 4, 2013 at 3:05 PM

11/4/13

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Dr. Mercer:

I am a chicken grower with farming operations in Queen Anne's County and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Hance has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First and foremost, how can the Department of Agriculture even think about proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

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Respectfully yours,

Daniel Heller

Church Hill, MD, Queen Anne's County



Earl Hance -ADA- <earl.hance@maryland.gov>

Phosphorus Management Tool

Abell, Rocky <Rocky.Abell@perdue.com>
 To: "jo.mercer@maryland.gov" <jo.mercer@maryland.gov>
 Cc: "earl.hance@maryland.gov" <earl.hance@maryland.gov>

Mon, Nov 4, 2013 at 3:40 PM

11-04-2013

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
 Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
 Maryland Department of Agriculture
 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Dr. Mercer:

I am a Century Farm Owner who lives in Worcester County. My Great Grandfather, John Redden purchased our family farm (which is now in my sons name), in December 1912. I also graduated with a B.S. degree in Biology from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Hance has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First and foremost, how can the Department of Agriculture even think about proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

Chicken Farms

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Respectfully yours,

James T. Abell III

Pocomoke City

This communication, including attachments, may contain confidential, privileged, copyrighted or other legally protected information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, disclosure, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication, or any of its contents, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately re-send this communication to the sender and delete the original message and any copy of it, including all attachments, from your computer system.

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November 4, 2013

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Dr. Mercer:

I am a (citizen) who lives from Wicomico County and I am tremendously disturbed about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is completely one-sided and based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Agriculture community has been the backbone of the American economy since the Founding Fathers. Why would Maryland refuse to support these families, and make an already difficult industry that much more challenging for no reason at all? If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Hance has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First how can the Department of Agriculture even consider proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

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Respectfully yours,

Holly Collick
Fruitland, MD



Maryland Phosphorus Regulation Public Comment

11/4/13

onnie2@verizon.net <onnie2@verizon.net>

Mon, Nov 4, 2013 at 7:47 PM

To: jo.mercer@maryland.gov

Cc: earl.hance@maryland.gov

11/4/13

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
 Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
 Maryland Department of Agriculture
 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Dr. Mercer:

I am a chicken grower who lives and/or works in Worcester County and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Hance has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First and foremost, how can the Department of Agriculture even think about proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

Chicken Farms

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Once this regulation is in effect, as it appears it will be and contrary to the wishes of many in the agricultural community, there will be many negative effects to the farming community, individuals like me, and the entire state of Maryland without noticeable improvements in water quality.

Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

Respectfully yours,

Sarah T. Chisholm
Pocomoke City, MD

11/5/13

Maryland.gov Mail - Maryland Phosphorus Regulation Public Comment



Earl Hance - NDA - 11/5/13 - Hance@mda.maryland.gov

Maryland Phosphorus Regulation Public Comment

rockinwrench@verizon.net <rockinwrench@verizon.net>

Tue, Nov 5, 2013 at 9:43 AM

To: jo.mercer@maryland.gov

Cc: earl.hance@maryland.gov

11/5/13

November 5, 2013

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.

Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Dr. Mercer:

My husband and I are poultry farmers living in Dorchester County and we are extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

Our first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Hance has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

Allowing an extended and orderly phase-in of the implementation date of the Phosphorous Management Tool will cause no environmental harm. For decades, the scientific and regulatory community told farmers not to worry about applications of phosphorus to the soil because unless the soil moved, the phosphorus would not move. Recently, that thinking changed and farmers began applying manures based upon their phosphorus content. The phosphorus levels in soils and waters were achieved over decades and will not be corrected for decades, even if this new regulation changes manure application procedures in 2015. Waiting a few more years to allow for an orderly phase-in will not cause any harm to our environment. An orderly phase-in will allow the agricultural community to adjust and make required changes. Additionally, my husband and I experienced how frustrating, confusing, difficult and time consuming it was to go through the Maryland CAFO process and to obtain a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. I cannot imagine that the conservation districts, the University of Maryland Extension, and/or private consultants can do enough side-by-side Phosphorus Site Index/Phosphorus Management Tool comparisons in 2014 to provide valid results.

Our family is working very hard and barely getting by just meeting our expenses on our farm, like many farm families my job off the farm supports us and many of the expenses on the farm, we do it because we love farming and producing food for others and we wish to leave a legacy of proper stewardship to our grandsons, not because we make money at it. It is our understanding that no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done and **any additional expenses will bring about financial hardships on my family and numerous other farm families.** In our case we may have to abandon our farm, default on our mortgage and lose our life savings. While I am sure you think this a dramatic statement it is not it is reality! Here are some concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation.

Chicken Farms

- Denied the ability to use manure, a locally produced organic fertilizer, on their own crops, some chicken farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure they already own. That will have a negative economic impact on the chicken growers.
- Chicken growers who have been selling their manure to other farmers may no longer have customers, thus a loss of income.
- Chicken growers who have had their chicken houses cleaned with manure removed from the farm without charge may now have to pay somebody to clean the houses and transport the manure since the cleaning/transporting company may not be able to sell the manure to make a profit and cover the costs of cleaning/transporting.
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- While commercial fertilizer will help a crop grow, the micronutrients and organic material in animal manure will help grow a larger crop. If yields are lessened due to the loss of organic material and micronutrients, then farmer income will diminish.
- Crop farmers and chicken farmers alike will most likely have to alter their business plans in ways that weaken their ability to withstand adverse growing conditions and/or markets -- requiring new expenditures/capital purchases while at the same time artificially reducing their potential yields.
- Crop farmers could see increased effects of drought on their crops as a result of losing poultry litter's organic material that helps build up the soil's moisture retaining capabilities.

We are continually concerned about the environment and wish to leave a healthy community to our grandsons, however, once this regulation is in effect, there will be many negative effects to the farming community that produces the food we all depend on for life and health, without noticeable improvements in water quality.

Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

Respectfully yours,

Sandra Wilson

Federalsburg, MD 21632

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DENNIS C. NAGEL, JR.
4381 Nichols Road, Federalsburg, MD 21632

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NOV - 5 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Dr. Mercer:

I am a chicken grower who lives in Caroline County and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Earl Hance has stated, we are at 130% of goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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Chicken Farms

- Denied the ability to use manure, a locally produced organic fertilizer, on their own crops, some chicken farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure they already own. That will have a negative economic impact on the chicken growers. This applies to me.
- Chicken growers who have been selling their manure to other farmers may no longer have customers, thus a loss of income. This applies to me.

- Chicken growers who have had their chicken houses cleaned with manure removed from the farm without charge may now have to pay somebody to clean the houses and transport manure since the cleaning/transporting company may not be able to sell the manure to make a profit and cover the costs of cleaning/transporting. This applies to me.
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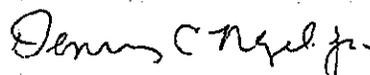
Crop Farmers

- Denied the ability to use manure on their crops, crop farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure that they have been using.
- Crop farmers who have used manure and not commercial fertilizers may have to buy or rent commercial fertilizer application equipment, thus raising the costs of doing business in an industry where profit margins are already slim.
- Crop farmers wanting to hire a fertilizer applicator might find that there are not enough applicators or equipment in the short fertilizer application period to allow timely fertilizer applications. Increased demand in services will allow these applicators to raise their fees, thus higher costs for crop farmers.
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Once this regulation is in effect, as it appears it will be and contrary to the wishes of many in the agricultural community, there will be many negative effects to the farming community, individuals like me, and the entire state of Maryland without noticeable improvements in water quality. My family depends on the income from our chicken farm and from cleaning out chicken houses and it seems to me that you don't care about that at all.

Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

Respectfully yours,



Dennis C. Nagel, Jr.

Dennis C. Nagel, Jr.
4381 Nichols Road
Federalsburg, MD 21632

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NOV - 5 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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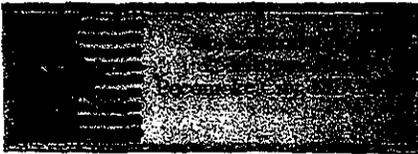
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Respectfully yours,



Kimberly Proitt

P.S. This may be a farm letter, however every farmer in Maryland is feeling the pinch. Some of what is being demanded is ludicrous. We are not a large farming operation. We raise chickens, have done all that's been required by MDE as well as MDA. Have been inspected. This new set of regulations could put us under. We do not make enough more to live flock to flock. We have a mortgage just like most others. This is just another new ~~to~~ financial strain to force poultry off the Eastern Shore.

200

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr Buddy Hance

How Can you Blame All the

Phosphorous Contaminating the

Bays & Rivers Due To Us

Farmers for over Doing it.

We due A Nutrient Mg Plan

Soil Samples, Land Samples

Then They tell us how

Manure To apply per Acre.

So Can Farmers Be polluting

the Bay & Rivers if

We are following the Department

of Ag guide lines!

Can you Explain This To Me
Please.

On My Farm my Mother in Law
And Father in Law were Dairy Farmers,

You All ~~the~~ Helped Force All

Small Dairy Farmers out of

Business! They were Dairy

Farmers for 48 ys. Dept of

Ag Forced All Small Dairy Farmers

out of Business. At one Time

We had a lot of Small Dairy

Farmers out of Business

Out of the Industry.

Now you are trying too
force the small farmers
out.

So if we can not use
chicken manure on the land

what are you trying to do

force the small farmer out

Also what are chicken farmers

to do with the manure.

The chicken's farmers do not

have manure facility to

keep manure if you stop

us from using manure

So are you trying to force

them out an cause the

chicken industry out of

MD Also the chicken plants

if they have no one to raise

chicken for them.

Also those who buy grain

from farmers to leave

the shore! if this happens

the whole ag business on the

shore will be finished so

then what will the farmers

do ~~like~~ like the saying

I have seen Everywhere

No Farmers
No Food
No Future

I think you Need To

Review your decision, as to

Stopping Farmers from

Putting Manure on the

land as this is a ready

Access!

Thank You

Doris Carey



Doris Carey
8073 Bowlend Rd
Pocomoke City MD 21851
3835

201

November 1, 2014

Secretary Earl D. Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21841

Dear Secretary Hance:

I am a farm equipment dealer who lives Talbot County and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as you have stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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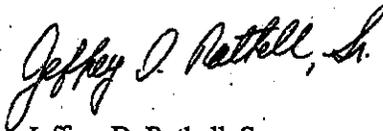
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Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

.....Respectfully yours,



Jeffrey D. Rathell, Sr.
Rathell Farm Equipment

RATHELL FARM EQUIPMENT CO., INC.
12682 OLD SKIPTON RD.
CORDOVA, MD 21625

Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance stated that he has received only eight comments about the new PMT regulations. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard. **Grain** Supporting Maryland's Grain Producers

Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

- My first fear is that the proposed regulation which will have huge impact on the state's agriculture community. As a chicken grower I have some concerns about near-immediate implementation of this regulation.
- Denied the ability to use manure, a locally produced organic fertilizer on their own crops, some chicken farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure they already own. That will have a negative economic impact on the chicken growers.
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Sincerely,

Name: HENRY TRAN
 Address: 8225 BOWLEND ROAD
POCOMAKE CITY, MD 21351
 Phone: 443-614-2353
 Email: henrytran18@hotmail.com

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Our Farms. Our Future.

Secretary of Agriculture Edddy Hance stated that he had received only eight comments about the new Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) regulation. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard. Kevin Anderson, President, Maryland Grain Producers Association



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

*My husband and I are Chicka flowers who live in
Somerset Co. Here are our concerns about the implementation of this
regulation: What to do with Chicka Manure generated? We already pay
\$4500/year for cleanouts, now we will have to add another \$4500/year
for manure transport, if anyone will take it. A farmer rents my
crop land and the use of my Chicka manure is included in cost,
if he cannot use the manure, that will be another \$1500-\$2000
loss of income. Please slow this down, Allow research to be
completed, economic impact studies in the Agricultural Community,
Alternate uses for manure, and allow for an orderly phase in.*

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NOV 5 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Our Farms, Our Future

Sincerely,

Name: DONNA AND GERARD DUMSHA
Address: 10785 OLD PRINCESS HANE RD
PRINCESS ANNE, MD 21853
Phone: 410 651 5426
Email: _____

203

Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance stated that he had received only eight comments about the new PMT regulations. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard. Kevin Anderson, President, Maryland Grain Producers Association.



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

ONCE ACAW POLITICS OUTWEIGHS SCIENCE

RECEIVED

Sincerely,

Name: Carl Lambertson
Address: 602 Steel Pond
STOCKTON MD 21864
Phone: 410 957 1595
Email: _____

204

Our Farms, Our Future

Secretary of Agriculture Earl Hance stated that he has received only one comment about the new PMP regulations. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard. Kevin Anderson, President, Maryland Grain Producers Association



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMP regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

I think that I can meet the PMP regs without much trouble. In fact they may help me by making chicken manure more available to me. I also think it puts a heavy and unfair burden on many livestock producers who have gotten to this point using the best science available and following NMP laws before the rest of us. I also think this is another blow to the livestock industry and also all of the rest of us who depend on livestock to be our market. WE MUST HAVE A STRONG POULTRY INDUSTRY TO HAVE A VIABLE AGRICULTURE IN MARYLAND

RECEIVED

NOV 5 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Our Farms, Our Future

Sincerely,

Name: Joe Layton
Address: 4448 New Bridge Rd
Vienna MD 21864
Phone: 410-228-1205
Email: joe@laytons-chance.com

205

206

November 5, 2013

Secretary Earl D. Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21841

Dear Secretary Hance:

I am Robert Fry, a veterinarian and dairy farmer in Kent County, Maryland. I have profound concerns about the impact of the proposed Phosphorus Management Tool. It is clear that the proposed regulation is based on incomplete research and insufficient analysis.

The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward. There is no data on the number of acres impacted, the economic impact on farmers or the potential benefit to the Bay. How can you impose a regulation with no cost benefit analysis?

The proposed regulation will have a huge impact on my clients as well as my farm. I would have thought that the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture would be advocating for agriculture. Agriculture is critically important to the state of Maryland. Unintended consequences from this proposal as a result of insufficient analysis and hasty implementation will cause drastic, dramatic and irrevocable damage to the rural economy.

Studies from the University of Wisconsin's Discovery Farms program, launched 13 years ago, show the solution to reducing nutrient and sediment losses from agriculture is to engage farmers and their advisors in the solutions. The Discovery program has also learned that solutions will not come from government agencies or people who do not make a living from production agriculture because they have nothing invested in the solution. Practices that do not fit into a system or that reduce profitability require some form of financial incentive. Regulations should be site specific. One size does not fit all.

It is imperative that nutrient management changes be based on sound science and implemented with thought and care in order for all parties to benefit. I urge you to collect the data needed to assess the potential negative impact on farmers and work with the agriculture community to actually solve the problem not merely impose new burdens.

Respectfully yours,

Robert C. Fry, DVM
Atlantic Dairy Management Services
Kennedyville, MD 21645

Robert C. Fry, DVM
12246 Locust Grove Rd.
Kennedyville, MD 21645

410-652-5538
rcfry@baybroadband.net



207

Send address changes to: govmail@maryland.gov

PMT regs

Lee Troyer <Lee.Troyer@binkleyhurst.com>
To: "Earl Hance@maryland.gov" <earl.hance@maryland.gov>

Wed, Nov 6, 2013 at 7:35 AM

Dear Mr. Hance,

I would like to ask you sincerely to please delay the decision of new PMT regulations until at least 2017. This would give some reasonable time to research the feasibility and necessity for such stringent guidelines. Farmers have been very cooperative with following mandatory and voluntary improvements to their operations for the sake of the environment. I am appealing to you on behalf of the heart of the Eastern Shore. Farming and specifically the poultry industry is extremely valuable to the economy here and I firmly believe we don't need any further legislation to jeopardize these livelihoods. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Lee Troyer

28155 Comegys Rd

Kennedyville, MD 21645

C: 410-708-2144

H: 410-348-5851

troyerfam5@gmail.com

lee.troyer@binkleyhurst.com

208

October 19, 2013

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Pkwy
Annapolis, MD 21401

RECEIVED

NOV - 6 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

Dear Mrs. Mercer,

I am writing to oppose the upcoming requirement that all Maryland nutrient management plans utilize the new, and untested, Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT). This tool will unfairly burden farm operations in my area by limiting and/or eliminating the option of poultry litter as an organic, slow release fertilizer. The costs associated with replacing poultry litter with an equivalent commercial fertilizer range from approximately \$100 to \$350 per acre. The additional costs associated with replacing litter as a nutrient source will place an unfair burden on Delmarva grain producers. In addition, poultry farmers will suffer as no viable option currently exists to take the manure generated on their farms, thus the costs of reutilization will fall on their shoulders. While MDA argues that the manure transport program will handle the exportation of manure, the reality is the trucking resources and cost recovery processes do not exist. Relocation of poultry litter on the scale required to satisfy the requirements under the PMT are not feasible, period!

Delmarva farmers and MDA through cost share programs have made considerable investments in storage, spreading equipment and manure management tools to minimize the environmental effects of poultry litter while maximizing the benefits to soil health and crop production. The PMT will render these investments useless and require similar and redundant investments wherever the ultimate fate of the manure resource proves to be.

I urge you to delay the implementation of the new PMT to enable thorough testing of the science behind the tool, give time for alternative uses to develop, and for farmers to find suitable and cost effective replacements for organic fertilizer that will be outlawed on most soils.

Sincerely,

Signature Richard W Thomas
Printed Name RICHARD W THOMAS
Street Address 4132 POWELLVILLE RD
City, State, Zip PITTSVILLE MD 21850

209

November 3, 2013

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Pkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RECEIVED

NOV - 6 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

Dear Mrs. Mercer,

I am a grain farmer residing in Wicomaico County. I have been farming for the past 46 years and looking forward to retirement before long.

I currently use poultry litter as a nutrient resource for part of my corn acreage. I would hate to see this resource restricted anymore than it is under the current nutrient management program.

I attended the public information meeting in Salisbury back in October. There was no one there to explain the science used to set up the Phosphorus Management ^{Tool} _{Committee}. I am very skeptical about any new restrictions placed on farmers in this region without unbiased proof that this new tool is totally necessary for maintaining ^{and improving} our Chesapeake Bay environment and at the same time sustaining a good ~~environment~~ environment for our farmers.

My son, Aaron, is interested in continuing the farming tradition here for another generation. His interest lies in transitioning from conventional farming to organic farming. I have a great fear that (PMT) will greatly hinder this transformation. Organic farmers do not have the luxury that conventional farmers have when they use inorganic fertilizers instead of manure for their nutrient resource.

These new more restrictive rules are going to force me to retire earlier than I desire. I am also afraid my son will not be able to successfully fulfill his dream to be an organic farmer.

Please look out for the farmers in the ~~sat~~ state of Maryland by making sure this a necessary change before it is implemented.

Clifford P. Cooper
4626 Cooper Road
Eden, Maryland 21822

Sincerely,
Clifford P. Cooper

510

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RECEIVED

NOV - 6 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
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My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Earl Hance has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

Allowing an extended and orderly phase-in of the implementation date of the Phosphorous Management Tool will cause no environmental harm. For decades, the scientific and regulatory community told farmers not to worry about applications of phosphorus to the soil because unless the soil moved, the phosphorus would not move. Recently, that thinking changed and farmers began applying manures based upon their phosphorus content. The phosphorus levels in soils and waters were achieved over decades and will not be corrected for decades, even if this new regulation changes manure application procedures in 2015. Waiting a few more years to allow for an orderly phase-in will not cause any harm to our environment. An orderly phase-in will allow the agricultural community to adjust and make required changes. Additionally, we saw firsthand how difficult and time consuming it was for Maryland CAFO farmers to obtain a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and to think the conservation districts, the University of Maryland Extension, and/or private consultants can do enough side-by-side Phosphorus Site Index/Phosphorus Management Tool comparisons in 2014 to provide valid results does not seem feasible.

Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First and foremost, how can the Department of Agriculture even think about proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

Chicken Farms

- Denied the ability to use manure, a locally produced organic fertilizer, on their own crops, some chicken farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure they already own. That will have a negative economic impact on the chicken growers.
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cleaning/transporting company may not be able to sell the manure to make a profit and cover the costs of cleaning/transporting.

- Even if the MDA establishes the state storage sites, it will be the chicken growers' responsibility to transport the manure to the site, possibly creating a cost for the chicken growers.
- If the value of manure is lost, then alternative use companies might start charging a fee to accept manure, much like a landfill charges for disposal. If any alternative use companies start operating, and nothing of any magnitude appears to be on the horizon, they might charge a disposal fee instead of buying manure or accepting it for free.

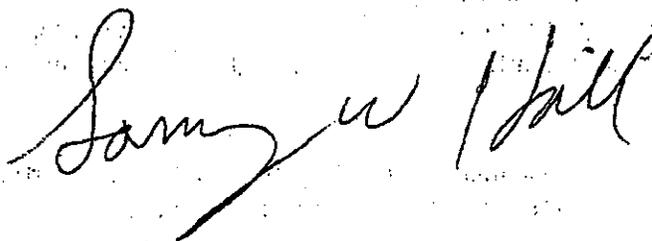
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Once this regulation is in effect, as it appears it will be and contrary to the wishes of many in the agricultural community, there will be many negative effects to the farming community, individuals like me, and the entire state of Maryland without noticeable improvements in water quality.

Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

Respectfully yours,



Samuel W. Hall Sr.
29810 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Princess Anne, Md. 21853

211

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RECEIVED

NOV - 6 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

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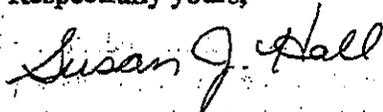
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Respectfully yours,



Susan J. Hall
29810 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Princess Anne, Md. 21853

212

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RECEIVED

NOV - 6 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

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Joanne A. Perry
29888 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Princess Anne, Md. 21853

213

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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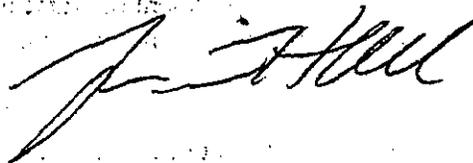
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Rebecca Hall
29890 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Princess Anne, Md. 21853

214

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Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Respectfully yours,



Douglas Perry
29888 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Princess Anne, Md 21853

215

RECEIVED

NOV - 6 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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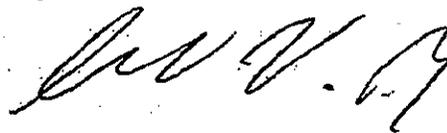
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Samuel W. Hall Sr.
29890 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Princess Anne, Md. 21853

216

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Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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NOV - 6 2013

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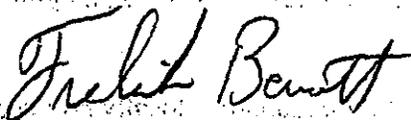
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Fredrick Bennett
Deer Island Rd.
Princess Anne, Md. 21853

217

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Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Deer Island Rd.
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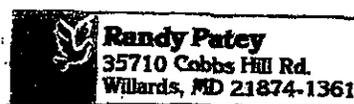
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Randy Patey



(219)

Insert date 11/5/13

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NOV - 6 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Earl D. Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21841

Dear Secretary Hance:

I am a (a crop farmer, a chicken grower, something else) who lives in (???) County) and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

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Randy Patey

Insert printed name

Insert town

RANDY PATEY
WILLARDS, MD

"Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance stated that he had received only eight comments about the new Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) regulation. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard." Kevin Anderson - President, Maryland Grain Producers Association



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

I am writing to tell you how terrible and catastrophic this new phosphorous management plan is to the farmers of the Eastern Shore

- 1. The phosphorous index should be set to 300 to 350. Phosphorous in the soil here is reasonable to the plant. New phosphorous needs to be applied every year. Your research is flawed and wrong wrong wrong.*
- 2. Too little space to say what I want. Don't do this!!!*

RECEIVED

NOV 6 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Our Farms, Our Future

Sincerely,

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

WILLIAM CARMEAN
6350 SNOW HILL RD.
SNOW HILL, MD 21822

443-580-8015

William Carmean

220

221

Nov. 2, 2013

Dear Secretary Buddy Hance,

I'm writing in opposition to the new PMT revision of our nutrient management plans. Politics, the rush to satisfy future WIP requirements and yielding to the environmental groups are infuriating our agricultural base. New regulations should not be made until the bay model is updated and viewed to be accurate by all parties involved.

This regulation has never had a cost benefit analysis done and many farmers have testified that their business plan under this regulation does not work. Those involved in transporting manure have testified to the same and relying on state or industry funding is not the answer. Just a few years ago the state was encouraging farmers to diversify - poultry was just one avenue. The litter was a large part of the economic reasoning for a sustainable future of their farms. I can understand their frustration with this regulation.

It was plain to see from the public forums that the research was rushed to fit the desires of a new WIP goal. I have a concern that using the agronomic 150 FIV doesn't relate well with how easily P is lost. Does the same soil with a 350 FIV vs one with a 150 lose incrementally more P with all other factors the same? Its certainly not a linear relationship. Perhaps more research would show that a much higher FIV could be used in some soils without increasing P loss. Is plant available P and P saturation unfairly being use in the same context? Many farmers testified that additional P was needed for young plants even under soils with very high P levels. You need to investigate their concerns with further research and not blow them off.

You and I know that farmers have made tremendous improvements on how we use litter (manures) than we did just a few decades ago. From the mindset of disposal to using them under a nutrient management plan is huge. Give what we have already done time and get the bay model corrected and verified accurate before anymore regulations. Farmers have had enough and ready to draw a line in the sand against MDA.

RECEIVED

NOV 6 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Lewis Smith
Lew
Easton, MD

Lewis Smith
31591 Matthewstown Rd.
Easton, MD 21601

222

Wicomico County, Maryland

P.O. BOX 870
SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21803-0870
410-548-4696
FAX: 410-548-7872

WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL
MATTHEW R. HOLLOWAY, PRESIDENT / AT LARGE
BOB CULVER, VICE PRESIDENT / AT LARGE
SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES, DISTRICT #1
STEVIE PRETTYMAN, DISTRICT #2
GAIL M. BARTKOVICH, DISTRICT #3
JOHN B. HALL, DISTRICT #4
JOE HOLLOWAY, DISTRICT #5

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MATTHEW E. CREAMER
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR

NOV - 6 2013

EDGAR A. BAKER, JR.
COUNTY ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 31, 2013

Earl F. Hance, Secretary of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Secretary Hance:

Wicomico County Executive, Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. and members of the Wicomico County Council are writing to express again, our deep concern over the great harm which we believe will be done to Maryland's agricultural industry and to Eastern Shore farmers and poultry growers, if the proposed Phosphorus Management Tool is implemented as it is still being proposed. We greatly appreciate the Department's allowing additional time for the poultry industry, poultry growers, farmers, local governmental officials and the general public to become better informed on the proposal and to express their concerns. But there are myriad, critical, issues which, while some appear to have been considered, they have not been thought through. There are key components of economic, environmental, market and logistic issues which are not in place and which must be in place before the PMT can be implemented without disastrous results.

Agriculture is Maryland's largest industry. It is central to the economy of the Lower Eastern Shore and Wicomico County is Maryland's largest producer of agricultural products. The poultry industry and all the ancillary industries which support it are the backbone of our economy.

It is still very disturbing that an assessment of the economic impact implementation of the PMT will have in the affected Lower Shore counties has not been undertaken. If a thorough economic assessment had been done, it would show that much more needs to be done before the PMT is put in effect. An assumption has been made that the enormous amounts of chicken manure and litter, which will not be placed on farmland in Lower Shore Counties will find ready markets in other parts of the state. These markets are yet to be established. There is no evidence that agriculture on the Western Shore or elsewhere on the Eastern Shore can absorb the excess production of poultry litter for use as fertilizer. Another serious consideration is transportation costs. With continuing rise of motor fuel, the economic advantage of using poultry litter instead of manufactured fertilizer may be lost due to transportation costs. Even worse, because of high

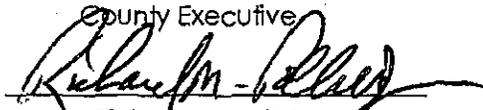
transportation costs, poultry litter could become noncompetitive with commercially produced fertilizers. To gain efficiencies by distance hauling in large trailers, new equipment would be required, further diminishing, or wiping out the economical use of poultry litter over long distances. A network of receiving farms would need to be established to accept the continuous flow of poultry litter from Delmarva poultry farms. Another suggested alternate use of poultry litter is incineration, for heat to generate electricity, or some other purpose. There are no incinerators in the region which could accept even a portion of the poultry litter generated. If a plan were launched to build them, it would take years to implement.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture may be the perfect entity to undertake and ensure that all these things get done and are put in place before the Phosphorus Management Tool is implemented. We are not saying that the problems cannot be solved. We are saying they have not been solved, nor is anyone giving serious attention to them. Yet, when a flock of poultry is ready, it is removed from the poultry house. The next step is to prepare the house for the next flock, including cleaning out the accumulated poultry litter. Storing litter on site is not a solution. On site storage is a short term, temporary measure to account for rainy days, or other short duration interruptions in the cycle. If there is no place to use the poultry litter, there will be no new flocks raised, processing plants will be closed. An entire industry will die. Thousands of people will be out of work. Growers will lose their livelihoods and their life savings. Farmers will spend millions of dollars more for fertilizer and the cost of everything grown on Delmarva will skyrocket. The economy of the Eastern Shore will be cast backward to the 1950's.

The County Executive and the County Council of Wicomico County implore you to delay indefinitely the implementation of the Phosphorus Management Tool until all these critical issues have been truly resolved. Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

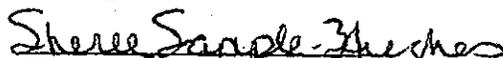
County Executive


Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.

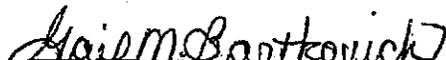
County Council

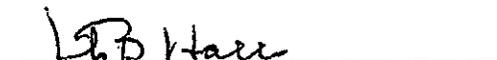

Matt Holloway, President

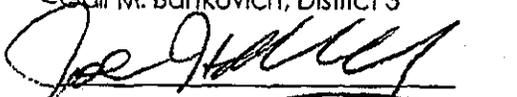

Bob Culver, Vice President


Sheree Sample-Hughes, District 1


Stevie Prettyman, District 2


Gail M. Bartkovich, District 3


John B. Hall, District 4


Joe Holloway, District 5

Cc: Senator Richard F. Colburn
Delegate Rudolph C. Cane
Delegate Adelaide Eckardt
Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Senator James N. Mathias, Jr.
Delegate Charles J. Otto
Delegate Norman H. Conway
Delegate Michael McDermott
House Speaker Michael E. Busch
Senate President Thomas Miller, Jr.
Governor Martin J. O'Malley
Delegate Maggie L. McIntosh
Worcester County Commissioners
Somerset County Commissioners
Michael McKay, Chair of Rural Counties Coalition
Delmarva Poultry Industry
Wicomico Farm Bureau
John C. Astle
David R. Brinkley
James Brochin
Jennie M. Forehand
Lisa A. Gladden
Nancy Jacobs
Norman R. Stone, Jr.
Robert A. Zirkin
Eric M. Bromwell
Robert A. Costa
Brian J. Feldman
Keith E. Haynes
Jolene Ivey
Dan K. Morhaim
Doyle L. Niemann
Michael D. Smigel, Sr.
Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Farm Bureau

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OCT 22 2013

NOV -- 6 2013

Secretary Earl D. Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21841

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Secretary Hance:

I am a chicken grower, who lives in Queen Annes County, and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as you have stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

Allowing an extended and orderly phase-in of the implementation date of the Phosphorous Management Tool will cause no environmental harm. For decades, the scientific and regulatory community told farmers not to worry about applications of phosphorus to the soil because unless the soil moved, the phosphorus would not move. Recently, that thinking changed and farmers began applying manures based upon their phosphorus content. The phosphorus levels in soils and waters were achieved over decades and will not be corrected for decades, even if this new regulation changes manure application procedures in 2015. Waiting a few more years to allow for an orderly phase-in will not cause any harm to our environment. An orderly phase-in will allow the agricultural community to adjust and make required changes. Additionally, we saw firsthand how difficult and time consuming it was for Maryland CAFO farmers to obtain a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and to think the conservation districts, the University of Maryland Extension, and/or private consultants can do enough side-by-side Phosphorus Site Index/Phosphorus Management Tool comparisons in 2014 to provide valid results does not seem feasible.

Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First and foremost, how can the Department of Agriculture even think about proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

Chicken Farms

- Denied the ability to use manure, a locally produced organic fertilizer, on their own crops, some chicken farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure they already own. That will have a negative economic impact on the chicken growers.
- Chicken growers who have been selling their manure to other farmers may no longer have customers, thus a loss of income.
- Chicken growers who have had their chicken houses cleaned with manure removed from the farm without charge may now have to pay somebody to clean the houses and transport the manure since the cleaning/transporting company may not be able to sell the manure to make a profit and cover the costs of cleaning/transporting.
- Even if the MDA establishes the state storage sites, it will be the chicken growers' responsibility to transport the manure to the site, possibly creating a cost for the chicken growers.
- If the value of manure is lost, then alternative use companies might start charging a fee to accept manure, much like a landfill charges for disposal. If any alternative use companies start operating, and nothing of any magnitude appears to be on the horizon, they might charge a disposal fee instead of buying manure or accepting it for free.

Crop Farmers

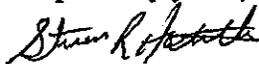
- Denied the ability to use manure on their crops, crop farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure that they have been using.
- Crop farmers who have used manure and not commercial fertilizers may have to buy or rent commercial fertilizer application equipment, thus raising their costs of doing business.
- Crop farmers wanting to hire a fertilizer applicator might find that there are not enough applicators or equipment in the short fertilizer application period to allow *timely* fertilizer applications. Increased demand in services will allow these applicators to raise their fees, thus higher costs for crop farmers.
- While commercial fertilizer will help a crop grow, the micronutrients and organic material in animal manure will help grow a larger crop. If yields are lessened due to the loss of organic material and micronutrients, then farmer income will diminish.
- Crop farmers and chicken farmers alike will most likely have to alter their business plans in ways that weaken their ability to withstand adverse growing conditions and/or markets – requiring new expenditures/capital purchases while at the same time artificially reducing their potential yields.
- Crop farmers could see increased effects of drought on their crops as a result of losing poultry litter's organic material that helps build up the soil's moisture retaining capabilities.

Once this regulation is in effect, as it appears it will be and contrary to the wishes of many in the agricultural community, there will be many negative effects to the farming community, individuals like me, and the entire state of Maryland without noticeable improvements in water quality.

Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a

phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

Respectfully yours,



Steve R Hostetler
Sudlersville MD

Steven Hostetler
1905 Sudlersville Rd.
Sudlersville, MD 21668

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NOV 6 2013

Secretary Earl D. Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Secretary Hance:

I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as you have stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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Chicken Farms'

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225

November 7, 2013

Mr. Earl F. (Buddy) Hance
Maryland Secretary of Agriculture
Office of Secretary
Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401-8960

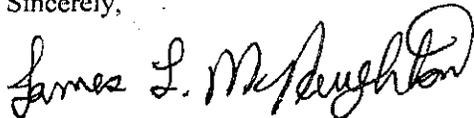
Dear Mrs. Mercer,

By now, you have received many of these close-to form letters and this will be no different, 98-plus% of farmers, chicken growers and croppers are all on the same page.

I am writing to **oppose the upcoming requirement that all Maryland nutrient management plans utilize the new, and untested, Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT)**. This tool will unfairly burden farm operations in my area by limiting and/or eliminating the option of poultry litter as an organic, slow release fertilizer. The costs associated with replacing poultry litter with an equivalent commercial fertilizer range from approximately \$100 to \$350 per acre. The additional costs associated with replacing litter as a nutrient source will place an unfair burden on Delmarva grain producers. In addition, poultry farmers will suffer as no viable option currently exists to take the manure generated on their farms, thus the costs of reutilization will fall on their shoulders. While MDA argues that the manure transport program will handle the exportation of manure, the reality is the trucking resources and cost recovery processes do not exist. Relocation of poultry litter on the scale required to satisfy the requirements under the PMT are not feasible, period! Delmarva farmers and MDA through cost share programs have made considerable investments in storage, spreading equipment and manure management tools to minimize the environmental effects of poultry litter while maximizing the benefits to soil health and crop production. The PMT will render these investments useless and require similar and redundant investments wherever the ultimate fate of the manure resource proves to be.

I urge you to delay the implementation of the new PMT to enable thorough testing of the science behind the tool, give time for alternative uses to develop, and for farmers to find suitable and cost effective replacements for organic fertilizer that will be outlawed on most soils.

Sincerely,



James L. McNaughton, Ph.D.
AHPharma, Inc.
116 West Chestnut Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801

"Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance stated that he had received only eight comments about the new Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) regulation. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard." Kevin Anderson - President, Maryland Grain Producers Association



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

I think farmers should be allowed to use chicken litter especially in the fall with a cover crop. I agree with having some regulation!

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NOV 7 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Our Farms, Our Future

Sincerely,

Name: Donald Leishear
Address: 28419 Hickory Hill Rd.
Federalsburg, Md. 21632
Phone: 410 754 8725
Email: _____

226

"Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance stated that he had received only eight comments about the new Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) regulation. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard." Kevin Anderson - President, Maryland Grain Producers Association



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

CARS are producing more pollution than manure on the environment. We need to address this problem before laws are passed. No one seems to care about this. Farmers produce food what are car pollution producing. Importing chickens will cause more harm on environment. We need more research. Politicians are not going to pay the farmers, hatcheries, live haul and processors. Who is going to give these people a job when farmers leave shore? We need more research.

RECEIVED

NOV 7 2013

Sincerely,

Name: David G. Pollock
Address: 24657 Siloam Rd
SALTSBURG MD 21801
Phone: 410-251-8043
Email: dpollock4262@yahoo.com

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Our Farms, Our Future

"Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance stated that he had received only eight comments about the new Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) regulation. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard." Kevin Anderson - President, Maryland Grain Producers Association



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

I feel law 13 being pushed too fast with out proper research is done on the impact of farmers on the long run. Lots of farmers will be pushed out of business. I see a lot of lawsuits being filed. Because this will interfere with the farmers right to provide for us or her ability to provide for their families. WE NEED more Research done on the impact of farmers and land.

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NOV 7 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Our Farms, Our Future

Sincerely,
Name: TAMMY SUE POLLOCK
Address: 26657 Siloam Rd
Salisbury, md 21801
Phone: 410-251-8034
Email: tpollock4262@yahoo.com

228

"Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance stated that he had received only eight comments about the new Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) regulation. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard." Kevin Anderson - President, Maryland Grain Producers Association



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

Please extend ^{the} time of implementing new PMT or better yet = Withdraw PMT regulation all together.

Please let the science researchers have time to do their work.

* Do an impact study on the feasibility of this whole regulation and manure transport.

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NOV 7 2013

Our Farms, Our Future

Sincerely,
Name: Patricia A. Rhodes
Address: 150 Chestnut Vale Farm Lane
Crownsville MD 21117
Phone: 410-758-0392
Email:

229

"Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance stated that he had received only eight comments about the new Phosphorous Management Tool (PMT) regulation. We wanted to make sure you have the opportunity to make your voice heard." Kevin Anderson - President, Maryland Grain Producers Association



Please use the space below to send comments regarding the PMT regulations to the Department of Agriculture. Comments should be received before November 18th. Alternatively, comments can be emailed to: Earl.Hance@maryland.gov.

Dear Secretary Hance:

Kill the Regulation (PMT)

Manure transportation does not work in MD Too many delays on permits. Too complicated - too many pages to fill out.

Too costly for farmers who must now buy commercial fertilizer because they can no longer use their manure.

RECEIVED

NOV 7 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Our Farms, Our Future

Sincerely,

Name: C Temple Rhodes Jr.
Address: 150 Chestnut Vale Farm Lane
Centerville, MD 21617
Phone: 410-310-0101
Email:

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NOV -- 7 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

706 Naylor Mill Road
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
410-749-4600 / Fax 410-749-1703

2329 Womble-Brooks Road
Wilson, North Carolina 27893
252-243-4601 / Fax 252-243-4661

November 5, 2013

Earl Hance,
Secretary of Agriculture
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Earl Hance:

I am a business owner, who lives in Wicomico County and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but you yourself has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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firsthand how difficult and time consuming it was for Maryland CAFO farmers to obtain a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and to think the conservation districts, the University of Maryland Extension, and/or private consultants can do enough side-by-side Phosphorus Site Index/Phosphorus Management Tool comparisons in 2014 to provide valid results does not seem feasible.

Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First and foremost, how can the Department of Agriculture even think about proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

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- If the value of manure is lost, then alternative use companies might start charging a fee to accept manure, much like a landfill charges for disposal. If any alternative use companies start operating, and nothing of any magnitude appears to be on the horizon, they might charge a disposal fee instead of buying manure or accepting it for free.

Crop Farmers

- Denied the ability to use manure on their crops, crop farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure that they have been using.
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Once this regulation is in effect, as it appears it will be and contrary to the wishes of many in the agricultural community, there will be many negative effects to the farming community, individuals like me, and the entire state of Maryland without noticeable improvements in water quality.

Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

Respectfully,



Wayne K. Evans

President
Evans Builders, Inc.
706 Naylor Mill Road
Salisbury, Maryland 21801

EMAIL
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November 4, 2013

NOV -- 5 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

232
Secretary Earl D. Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21841

Dear Secretary Hance:

I am a small business owner who lives in Dorchester County. My mom and pop grocery store/deli depends directly on the farmers of this area, many of whom are chicken farmers. I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as you have stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment.

Respectfully yours,

Donna Bradshaw, Owner
Reids Grove Country Store
Rhodesdale, MD

Donna Bradshaw

Reids Grove Country Store
5106 Rhodesdale Vienna Road
Rhodesdale, MD 21659



233

Earl Hance - 704 - 644 - 1100

PMT proposed Regs!

Max Schnoor <schnoor@fastol.com>
To: earl.hance@maryland.gov

Thu, Nov 7, 2013 at 10:10 AM

Dear Secretary Hance: I am a corn grower in Dorchester County and oppose the proposed PMT regulations MDA has proposed. I need a source of manure to lower my cost of fertilizer in order to be profitable and pay salaries to my employees. If I am left to buy commercial fertilizer the cost will be too expensive because each element in poultry manure will have to be purchased separately making it too costly. The micronutrients and organic matter help my poor soil type, keeping my yields to levels that allow me to stay in business during tough times. Please slow this PMT proposal down to allow scientific research to be completed. Max Schnoor. Cambridge Md. schnoor@fastol.com



234

Poultry Litter

Rick Smith <rsmith@wcboe.org>

Thu, Nov 7, 2013 at 11:57 AM

To: "Earl Hance" <earl.hance@maryland.gov>

I am a poultry grower who lives in Pittsville Maryland in Wicomico County I am very concerned over the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation to the Phosphorus Management Tool. My fear is what am I going to do with the manure at the present time Ellis Farms takes my manure at no charge. Please just slow this down and find other alternative uses of manure that or cost effective .

Confidentiality Note: This message may contain confidential information intended only for the use of the person named above and may contain communication protected by law . If you have received this message in error, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or other use of this message is prohibited and you are requested to notify the sender immediately at his/her electronic mail.



2351

Phosphorous

Janet Stiles Fulton <shenjers@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 7, 2013 at 1:56 PM

To: earl.hance@maryland.gov

Cc: john.donoghue@house.state.md.us, "Shank, Christopher Senator" <Christopher.Shank@senate.state.md.us>, Delegate Hogan <patrick.hogan@house.state.md.us>, "Parrott, Neil Delegate" <neil.parrott@house.state.md.us>, "Serafini, Andrew Delegate" <andrew.serafini@house.state.md.us>, leroy.myers@house.state.md.us, "Baker, Terry L." <tebaker@washco-md.net>, Valerie Connolly <valeriec.mdfb@verizon.net>, "Jeffery W. Semler" <jsemler@umd.edu>

November 7, 2013

Secretary Earl D Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture

Dear Secretary Hance:

My name is Janet Stiles Fulton and I am a dairy farmer in Boonsboro, Washington County, Maryland. I, along with my family, deeply oppose the Phosphorous Management Tool that has been proposed. The new regulations do not take into consideration the amount of work that the animal sector in this state has already devoted to phosphorous reduction. We feel that the scientific research on phosphorous has not been completed to allow such changes to be implemented.

The next version of the Bay Model will not be released until 2017. The old version has not credited Maryland with all that the new Nutrient Management efforts such as cover crops, and better ag techniques have gained. After that, it will become more clear what effects agriculture has had on the phosphorous levels.

Putting the new PMT into effect before that will have devastating results on animal agriculture in this state. Poultry houses will not be able to clean out and bring in new birds. Dairy and other livestock manure handling will be greatly impacted.

Our neighboring states have not even begun to implement the regulations that have been put on Maryland animal producers. Certainly a delay for Maryland will only give other states time to catch up...not put Maryland behind at all. The goal for the TMDL/WIP shows that Maryland agriculture is at 130% of the goal. We feel we have adopted best management practices and made every effort to do our part to improve the Bay...something we all want.

Maryland Farm Bureau has compiled a lot of facts and information in regards to this issue. Understanding that when it is presented, it only appears as one, but I urge you to remember that they represent more than 37,000 members. As farmers, we try to stay current on new research, techniques, marketing issues and of course our own operations and the weather. We rely on Maryland Farm Bureau to compile and send information as needed. So please, do not take their response as only one...but more then 37,000 !

Currently there are no alternatives that are financially feasible for manure handling. Time is needed.

The research is also incomplete on the newly proposed PMT.

We the animal producing sector in this state provide economic impacts to the State and feel that these new regs could mean the end of our viability.

I fear that if things are not improved, there will not be any commercial animal agriculture in the state of Maryland!

We respectfully urge all to step back, wait for the scientific data to be obtained and make reasonable requirements that are made in timely ways. The future of a very important part of the economy of the State of Maryland is at risk!

Janet Stiles Fulton

Shenandoah Jerseys

Janet Stiles Fulton 301-465-3606

Jessica Stiles Hess 301-465-9064

Jr Hess 301-992-0280

18848 Printz Rd.

Boonsboro, MD 21713

ShenJers@Gmail.com



236

Phosphorous

Janet Stiles Fulton <shenjers@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 7, 2013 at 2:39 PM

To: Earl Hance <HanceEF@mda.state.md.us>

Cc: "Shank, Christopher Senator" <Christopher.Shank@senate.state.md.us>, john.donoghue@house.state.md.us, Delegate Hogan <patrick.hogan@house.state.md.us>, "Parrott, Neil Delegate" <neil.parrott@house.state.md.us>, "Serafini, Andrew Delegate" <andrew.serafini@house.state.md.us>, leroy.myers@house.state.md.us, "Baker, Terry L." <tebaker@washco-md.net>, Valerie Connelly <valeriec.mdfb@verizon.net>, "Jeffery W. Semler" <jsemler@umd.edu>

Dear Secretary Hance,

We are JR and Jessica Stiles Hess of Shenandoah Jerseys in Boonsboro, Maryland. We are the son in law and daughter of Janet Stiles Fulton that previously sent comments about the proposed Phosphorous Management Tool. Mom and Dad devoted their lives to dairy farming and worked hard to leave my Dad's family farm in Virginia and go on their own by purchasing a farm in Maryland. It was their dream to have a progressive and viable farm for our family to continue on. We are the current Farm and Dairy Managers and are working toward someday owning Shenandoah. However, we greatly fear that if the proposed regulations, along with other henderances to animal agriculture in Maryland continue...this dream will not come true.

Since moving to Maryland in 1996, our family has built a new dairy facility with more than the recommended manure storage for the herd. We have built a new dry cow facility, calf raising barn, almost tripled the acreage that we crop on the halves, built grain storage and dry manure storage. We obviously want to continue dairying at our farm!

We are not going to reiterate the facts and information that Mom sent but encourage the delay of implementing new regulations until the research has been completed and also until the new Bay Model gives credit to agriculture for the progress we have already accomplished.

We also urge that full attention be given to the information that Maryland Farm Bureau has sent and echo that as members, Farm Bureau is the voice of many!!

As long as the research is not complete and the new regulations would cause so much devistation to the agricultural industry in the state of Maryland and therefore to the economics of the entire state, we can not understand why Maryland is even suggesting these changes.

Please consider the agricultural producers of this state and eliminate these proposed new regulations.

Jr Hess
Jessica Stiles Hess

Shenandoah Jerseys
Janet Stiles Fulton 301-465-3606
Jessica Stiles Hess 301-465-9064
Jr Hess 301-992-0280
18848 Printz Rd.
Boonsboro, MD 21713
ShenJers@Gmail.com

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NOV 7 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 5, 2013

Secretary Earl D. Hance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21841

Dear Secretary Hance:

My name is Judy Gifford and I am a dairy farmer in Kent County, Maryland. When I began farming in 1996, there were over 30 other dairy farms in the county. Two thirds of those farmers have gone out of business in 17 years. Dairy farming, while rewarding and vital to the local economy, is a tough business. I believe the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool will make it even more difficult. Those of us who operate small farms will be especially hard hit.

As a farmer in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, I make every effort to farm sustainably and prudently. Our practices are based on sound science and common sense. The proposed regulation is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward. The regulations state that there is no data on the number of acres impacted. How can that be? Is there a problem being solved? If so what is it and what are the impacts on farmers like me? Will I be able to stay in business or will I be forced to sell my cows? Does anyone know? Does anyone care?

How can you state that there will be a positive impact on the public and a cleaner Bay when you have no idea how many acres will be impacted or how they will be impacted? How can you say there will be a positive on the public if I can no longer host all of the county's third graders and teach them about dairy farming? How can you say there will be positive impact on the public if I no longer contribute tens of thousands of dollars to the community businesses who support my operation if I must exit the dairying?

For decades farmers were told not to worry about applications of phosphorus to the soil because unless the soil moved, the phosphorus would not move. Recently, that thinking changed and farmers began applying manures based upon their phosphorus content. The phosphorus levels in soils and waters were achieved over decades and it will take time to make improvements where necessary. Collecting relevant impact data and then allowing for an orderly phase-in will allow for a greater chance of success for farmers and improvement to the environment. An orderly phase-in will allow the agricultural community to adjust and make required changes and allow for exceptions for special situations if necessary.

I truly believe there will be many negative effects and unintended consequences to the farming community, especially small farmers like me, without noticeable improvements in water quality. It is critical that nutrient management changes be based on sound science and implemented with thought and care in order for all parties to benefit. I urge you to collect the data needed to assess the potential negative impact on farmers and work with the agriculture community to actually solve the problem not merely impose new burdens.

Respectfully yours,

Judy Gifford
St. Brigid's Farm
Kennedyville, MD



238

Maryland.gov Mail - PMT

PMT

Jon quinn <jonquinn@baybroadband.net>
To: earl.hance@maryland.gov

Thu, Nov 7, 2013 at 4:38 PM

Dear Secretary Hance.

I'm a Cecil County grain farmer who uses manure from my local chicken layer farm. Using manure is a very impotent part of my farming operation helping me save money on fertilizer and with grain prices falling it is even more impotent that farmers have the ability to use manure. I feel that pushing the PMT through to fast without more research and time to implement it is going to cause great harm to the whole agriculture industry. Once this regulation is in effect, as it appears it will be and contrary to the wishes of many in the agricultural community, there will be many negative effects to the farming community, individuals like me and the entire state of Maryland without noticeable improvements in water quality.

Please slow down and allow scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in.

Respectfully yours

Jonathan Quinn
Warwick Md

Kenny & Janice Arney
20613 Windy Lane
Bridgeville, DE 19933

239

November 5, 2013

Earl Hance
Secretary of Agriculture
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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NOV — 8 2013

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Hance:

I am a (a crop farmer, a chicken grower, business owner, who lives in Sussex County) and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Hance has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

Allowing an extended and orderly phase-in of the implementation date of the Phosphorous Management Tool will cause no environmental harm. For decades, the scientific and regulatory community told farmers not to worry about applications of phosphorus to the soil because unless the soil moved, the phosphorus would not move. Recently, that thinking changed and farmers began applying manures based upon their phosphorus content. The phosphorus levels in soils and waters were achieved over decades and will not be corrected for decades, even if this new regulation changes manure application procedures in 2015. Waiting a few more years to allow for an orderly phase-in will not cause any harm to our environment. An orderly phase-in will allow the agricultural community to adjust and make required changes. Additionally, we saw firsthand how difficult and time consuming it was for Maryland CAFO farmers to obtain a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and to think the conservation districts, the University of Maryland Extension, and/or private consultants can do enough side-by-side Phosphorus Site Index/Phosphorus Management Tool comparisons in 2014 to provide valid results does not seem feasible.

Here are some of my concerns about the near-immediate implementation of this regulation. First and foremost, how can the Department of Agriculture even think about proposing a regulation that could cause such financial hardships on farm families when no meaningful economic impact analysis has been done?

Chicken Farms

- Denied the ability to use manure, a locally produced organic fertilizer, on their own crops, some chicken farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure they already own. That will have a negative economic impact on the chicken growers. Chicken manure can make a farm grow better crops than commercial fertilizer.

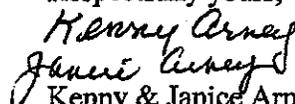
- Chicken growers who have been selling their manure to other farmers may no longer have customers, thus a loss of income.
- Chicken growers who have had their chicken houses cleaned with manure removed from the farm without charge may now have to pay somebody to clean the houses and transport the manure since the cleaning/transporting company may not be able to sell the manure to make a profit and cover the costs of cleaning/transporting.
- Even if the MDA establishes the state storage sites, it will be the chicken growers' responsibility to transport the manure to the site, possibly creating a cost for the chicken growers.
- If the value of manure is lost, then alternative use companies might start charging a fee to accept manure, much like a landfill charges for disposal. If any alternative use companies start operating, and nothing of any magnitude appears to be on the horizon, they might charge a disposal fee instead of buying manure or accepting it for free.

Crop Farmers

- Denied the ability to use manure on their crops, crop farmers will have to buy commercial fertilizer to replace chicken manure that they have been using.
- Crop farmers who have used manure and not commercial fertilizers may have to buy or rent commercial fertilizer application equipment, thus raising their costs of doing business.
- Crop farmers wanting to hire a fertilizer applicator might find that there are not enough applicators or equipment in the short fertilizer application period to allow timely fertilizer applications. Increased demand in services will allow these applicators to raise their fees, thus higher costs for crop farmers.
- While commercial fertilizer will help a crop grow, the micronutrients and organic material in animal manure will help grow a larger crop. If yields are lessened due to the loss of organic material and micronutrients, then farmer income will diminish.
- Crop farmers and chicken farmers alike will most likely have to alter their business plans in ways that weaken their ability to withstand adverse growing conditions and/or markets – requiring new expenditures/capital purchases while at the same time artificially reducing their potential yields.
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Please, slow this down. Allow the scientific research to be completed and then allow an orderly phase-in much as the game-changing Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 allowed a phase-in period. Without alternative uses of manure and cost effective replacements for this soon-to-be lost organic fertilizer, tremendous harm will come to the state of Maryland without improving the environment. Delaware usually follows Maryland and this worries us.

Respectfully yours,

 Kenny & Janice Arney
 Bridgeville, DE

Kenny & Janice Arney
20613 Windy Lane
Bridgeville, DE 19933

November 5, 2013

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RECEIVED
NOV 8 2013
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Dr. Mercer:

I am a (a crop farmer, a chicken grower, business owner, who lives in Sussex County) and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

My first fear is that the proposed regulation, which will have huge impacts on the state's agricultural community, is based on incomplete research. The University of Maryland researchers have stated that their work is not done, yet the state is moving forward at breakneck speed for what appears to be political reasons. Rather than being focused on how to support and improve the agricultural community, the department seems more concerned with appeasing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If the farming sector in Maryland was lagging in achieving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals, then perhaps enhanced efforts would be needed, but as Secretary of Agriculture Hance has stated, we are at 130% of the goal. That's an accomplishment that seems to be lost on Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

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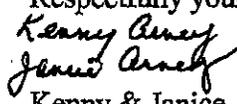
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Respectfully yours,

 Kenny & Janice Arney
 Bridgeville, DE



Fox Chase LLC

Producer of Happy Chickens

240

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NOV - 8 2013

MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNAPOLIS

Jo A. Mercer, Ed.D.
Administrator, Nutrient Management Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Dr. Mercer:

I am a chicken grower and an agricultural business owner who lives in Delaware and I am extremely concerned about the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulation related to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

The state of Maryland has admitted it has thus far achieved 130% of its goal in regards to agricultural nutrient reduction. Allowing an extended and orderly phase-in of the implementation date of the Phosphorous Management Tool will cause no environmental harm. Imposing this legislation that drastically impact the way all Maryland and Delmarva farms operate and impose financial burdens likely to force many family farms out business unnecessarily.

The initiative the Maryland Department of Agriculture has only recently submitted requesting information pertaining to innovative technologies with the proven ability to reduce the nutrient loads currently being land applied seems to be much better approach to handling the issue. This request should have come long before any plans to enact legislation that negativity impacting Maryland citizens, many of these technologies have the potential to remove nutrients, compensate farmers, and create jobs simultaneously.

Please, slow this legislation down and allow the technologies you have only recently begun to explore a chance to turn this into a win-win for the farmers, the state, the industry, job seeking citizens, the department of revenue, the environment, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Respectfully yours,

Paul 1 Baker



Fox Chase LLC

26073 Hidden Acres Ln
Millsboro, DE 19966

Terry Baker
26073 Hidden Acres Ln Millsboro, DE 19966
410.726.2353 cell