

## **CHAPTER 8 - OHIO AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAM**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP) is administered by Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) and implemented locally by all 88 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). Rules 1501:15-5-01 to 1501:15-5-20 of the Ohio Administrative Code establish state standards for a level of management and conservation practices in farming and animal feeding operations on farms in order to abate excessive soil erosion or the pollution of waters of the state by soil sediment and animal manure. These rules also define Ohio's pollution abatement grant program for landowners or operators to voluntarily install conservation practices.

The Chief of ODA-DSWC has entered into cooperative agreements with all 88 SWCDs to implement the APAP. SWCDs assist ODA-DSWC in implementing the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program by providing landowners, farm operators and loggers technical assistance, advice and expertise and informing them of the level of conservation necessary to comply with the rules and standards. SWCD Board of Supervisors or their designee perform the following tasks: approve or disapprove nutrient management plans, approve or disapprove operation and management plans including timber harvest plans, and investigate agricultural pollution complaints. When agricultural pollution abatement violations cannot be resolved voluntarily, the division chief can issue an order against any person who fails to comply with the rules and standards and any person failing to comply with these orders is subject to criminal penalties.

### **LAW AND RULES**

#### **[Chapter 939 of Ohio Revised Code](#)**

The Chief of ODA-DSWC shall establish technically feasible and economically reasonable standards to achieve a level of management and conservation practices in farming operations that will abate wind or water erosion of the soil or abate the degradation of the waters of the state by animal waste or by soil sediment including substances attached thereto, and establish criteria for determination of the acceptability of such management and conservation practices.

#### **[Chapter 1501:15-5 of Ohio Administrative Code](#)**

Rules 1501:15-5-01 to 1501:15-5-20 of the Administrative Code apply to the control of pollutants from areas within the state used for agricultural production operations, including land being used for the production or keeping of animals or for the production of agricultural crops.

### **AGREEMENTS AND POLICIES**

The ODA-DSWC maintains a website with guidance documents, complaint forms and other documents to assist SWCDs with carrying out APAP responsibilities. To view the complete website [click here](#).

The chief of the ODA-DSWC has entered into cooperative agreements (MOU) with the 88 boards of supervisors of districts to implement the agricultural pollution abatement program. The following are supporting documents to assist with implementing ag pollution abatement laws.

#### **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Handling Complaints**

The SOP provides a step by step outline for SWCDs to refer to as they receive and investigate agricultural pollution abatement complaints.

#### **Entering Complaints into Soil and Water Information Management System (SWIMs)**

This document provides a step by step process for SWCDs entering pollution complaints in SWIMs. All complaints must be entered into the SWIMs database within 10 working days of receiving the complaint.

#### **APAP Cost Share Program and Advisory Report**

The APAP program has typically provided cost share dollars to assist operations that are seeking voluntary compliance. Funds are limited and ODA-DSWC Resource Management Specialists (RMSs) should be contacted to check on availability and to apply for funds.