



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**DATE:** April 4, 2017

**TO:** Members  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Agricultural Advisory Board

**FROM:** Frank X. Schneider  
Director, Nutrient and Odor Management Programs

**SUBJECT:** Standard Animal Weights Update

**Action Requested**

State Conservation Commission Staff (staff) would like to brief the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) on the updated Standard Animal Weights that will be utilized in the Act 38 Nutrient Management Program. Staff is seeking a recommendation from the AAB to the State Conservation Commission (SCC).

**Background**

The current animal weights that are used in the Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) program were developed in 2010. The original animal weights were published in 1997 for Act 6. In 2007, a revision was made for Act 38. In 2010, the weights were again revised to better reflect current Pennsylvania agriculture.

Based on requests made, staff and Penn State Cooperative Extension (PSU) felt it was best to review and update all animal species weights and animal groupings to current Pennsylvania Industry standards and representative of what actually exists in Pennsylvania.

83.262 (a) (1) (i) of the Act 38 regulations state:

Compute the animal weight for the agricultural operation by multiplying the average number of animals on the agricultural operation by the standard animal weight used by the livestock industry in this Commonwealth. The standard weights contained in guidance published by the Commission may be used to meet this requirement. Other animal weights may be used in place of those in the Commission guidance, if there is sufficient documentation to support their use. For those animal types not included in the Commission guidance, the average animal weight for the operation shall be used for this calculation, taking into account, if applicable, the range of animal weights throughout the time the animals are on the operation.

In September 2016, the SCC approved a 60-day public comment period on the draft standard animal weights and animal grouping. On October 28, 2016 SCC staff released the draft for public comment and also briefed the Nutrient Management Advisory Board (NMAB) and the AAB. The comment period ended December 30, 2016.

The public comment announcement asked for the following:

1. Comments on the draft weights.
2. Comments on the animal grouping.
3. When should the changes become effective?
4. How will the new animal weights be brought into existing Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs)?
5. How will the new animal weights be brought into existing Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) / Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) calculations that show someone is not a CAO / CAFO?
6. How will these new weights and agronomy facts 54 be “rolled out”?

The SCC received 84 comments from 25 commentators. Based off the comments received, we asked the PSU species specialists to review the draft again and make final adjustments. Changes have occurred.

Attached to this memo, please find the following:

1. Updated draft final standard animal weights
2. Comment and response document
3. Draft “roll out” plan for the implementation of these new standard weights for CAO, CAFO’s, and operations that are not currently regulated under Act 38.

SCC staff plans to present the above to the SCC at their May 9, 2017 meeting. SCC staff is seeking a recommendation from the AAB on the new standard weights and “roll out” plan.