**BRAD GAVITT FARM CERTIFICATION REQUEST REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

Brad Gavitt operates a beef operation located in Franklin Township, Lycoming County. All of the farmland supporting the beef operation is located in Franklin Township.

Typically, there are around 18 beef cows, 18 calves, 2 heifers, and 2 bulls. This proposal assumes the maximum amount of animals that could be on the operation and still fall under the guidelines of the manure management plan guidelines. Those numbers are 35 cows, 35 calves, 5 heifers, and 2 bulls.

The operation is primarily grassed pasture based. Sorghum silage is grown for one year and followed by 4 years of alfalfa/grass mixed hay. All plantings are no-till. All silage ground is seeded into a cover crop in a typical year.

**CERTIFICATION REQUEST DOCUMENTATION RQUIREMENTS**

1. **Baseline and Threshold (25 Pa Code 96.8)**

The Gavitt operation meets baseline requirements of 025 PA Code 96.8 by having the following required items:

1. Manure Management Plan for all tracts receiving manure (025 PA 83 Subchapter D)
2. Conservation Plans for all tracts (025 PA 102)

The Gavitt operation is in full compliance of the requirements of its Conservation Plans and Manure Management Plan.

The Gavitt operation meets the threshold needed to generate credits by the requirement states as, “Manure is not mechanically applied within 100 feet of a perennial or intermittent stream with a defined bed or bank, a lake or a pond”. The operation also applies commercial fertilizer at or below agronomic rates contained in the current *Penn State University Agronomy Guide* published by Pennsylvania State University.

**Credit Generation**

The Gavitt operation is 100% no-till. In addition to tillage credits, the operation generates credits by planting cover crops on all sorghum silage acres every year. RUSLE2 calculations were run for each field over the entire operation. The operation also generates credits by maintaining a pasture system following its grazing plan and by having implemented BMPs such as stream bank fencing and a riparian forest buffer.

**Credit Calculation Method**

All credits for this certification request will be for Nitrogen (N) credits only. To do this, the current version of the Nonpoint Source Nitrogen Calculation Spreadsheet found on the PA DEP Nutrient Trading Webpage was used. The manure figures used include the manure application rates and manure analysis found in the original certification.

All cropland associated with this certification lies within Watershed Segment 70. The watershed segment has a Nitrogen delivery ratio of 0.941. The Nitrogen Edge of Stream Ratios for this watershed is 45% for conventional tillage, 45% for conservation tillage, 86% for hay, and 13% for pasture.

1. **Location Maps of the Proposed Prevention Reduction Activity (PRA)**

The following maps have been submitted to show the locations of the proposed PRA for each tract:

1. An FSA map showing the farm boundaries, the field boundaries of tracts that generate credits, adjacent or nearby road names, and any visible receiving streams.
2. A soil map showing the soils in the fields generating credits. A chart with all of the operation’s soil type symbols and their names is also attached with this proposal.
3. A topographic map showing the general area, topography of the tract, and a latitude and longitude reading for the center of the PRA activity.
4. **Details on the Timing of Credits**

Credits will be verified twice annually. The first time credits will be verified is as soon after April 15th as possible for fields that had a cover crop. To receive credit for having a successful cover crop, there must be a minimum of 50% ground cover by April 15th of that year.

The second verification will take place after the spring crops have been planted to verify the tillage method and to also check that the pasture based BMPs are still functioning as intended. This will be done in the May-July timeframe. These credits will be sent in for certification separately from the cover crop credit submission.

1. **Water Quality Uses Under Chapter 93**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tract number(s) | Local Watershed Name | Watershed Name | Major Basin |
| 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1675, 1676, 3614 and 3835 | Little Indian Run | Muncy Creek | Susquehanna River |

All of the receiving stream segments are listed in Chapter 93 as having a designated use of CWF- (Cold Water Fishes). There are no receiving streams segments with impairments.

1. **Funding Source Information**

Other than funding through the USDA CREP program, The Gavitt operation has not received any public funding sources to generate these credits. The operation’s current CREP contract expires in 2021, but he has no interest in removing the BMPs when the contract is completed. All credits are free and clear financially.

1. **Risk Reduction Plan**

Provisions have been put into place to minimize the operator from not producing the credits through a contract with him, the Lycoming County Conservation District, and the County of Lycoming. The contract states that if the operator is under contract for future credits, he must supply them or provide the money required to pay the Lycoming County Nutrient Trading Program the amount it would cost to buy the amount of credits he did not generate. In most cases, we recommend that our producers sign one year contracts for practices that are not permanent like the CREP BMPs. In addition to this provision, the Lycoming Nutrient Trading Program has a fund set aside equal to 25%-30% of all previously sold credits in case there is a credit generator who defaults on contracted credits by no fault of his own. This fund could also be used to produce contracted credits for a generator instead of having a generator purchase them if he defaults depending on the circumstance of the credit default.

1. **Preservation and Conservation Easement Information**

Tracts 1438 and 3614 are in the Franklin Twp. Ag Security Area. None of the tracts farmed by the Gavitt operation are enrolled in the Lycoming County Ag Preservation Program.

**Confidential Business Information**

N/A

1. **Submitting Person and PRA Participants**

**Submitter’s Information**

Submitting Agency: Lycoming County Conservation District

Address: 542 County Farm Road, Suite 202

Montoursville, PA 17754

Contact Name: Rod Morehart, Chesapeake Bay Technician

Contact Phone #: 1(570) 329-1619

**PRA Participants Information**

Operation Information: Brad Gavitt Farm

Address: 2725 Cleman Hollow Road

Unityville, PA 17774

Contact Name: Brad Gavitt

Other PRA Participants: N/A

1. **Professional Qualifications**

Rod Morehart received a B.S.in Wildlife Management from Delaware State University in 2001. He has worked in the conservation field full time since May 2001. He has been nutrient management certified in Maryland, Delaware or Pennsylvania since 2002. He is also a certified conservation planner through the NRCS’s training program. Rod has been involved with the Lycoming County Nutrient Trading Program since its inception. He has written most of the proposals that have been submitted to date. He has completed all of the annual field verification and credit verification submission work since the program started selling credits.

1. **Verification Plan**

Credit verification will start with a cover crop field check in the spring of every year. Successful cover crop fields will have their credits generated and sent in once all of the cover crop credit work is completed for all program participants.

Another field verification visit will be made to inspect the tillage used on all fields that can generate tillage related credits after the spring planting has occurred. This visit will also be used to inspect the pasture based BMPs used to generate credits to make sure that they are being maintained properly. The tillage and pasture credits will be sent in as a separate verification request after the credit calculation work is completed. This will occur no sooner than June of each Compliance Year.

**Attachments to Supplement the Certification Request Form and**

**Certification Request Required Documentation**

1. **Map Folder**

**Each folder listed below contains an FSA map, Soil Map, and a Topographic Map**

Tract 1437 Tract 1438 Tract 1439 Tract 1440

Tract 1675 Tract 1676 Tract 3614 Tract 3835

**RUSLE2 Folder**

**This folder contains the following RUSLE2 PDFs:**

Tract 1437 F 1 & 4 Tract 1437 F 2 & 3 Tract1 438 P 1 & 3

Tract 1438 P 2 Tract 1438 P 4 Tract 1439 P 5

Tract 1440 F 1 Tract 1675 F1-5 Tract 1676 F 1 & 2

Tract 1676 F 3 Tract 3614 F 1 Tract 3835 F 1

1. **Spreadsheet Folder**

**This folder contains the following spreadsheets:**

Gavitt T 1437 F 1-4 Gavitt T 1438 P 1 Gavitt T 1438 P 2

Gavitt T 1438 P 3 Gavitt T 1438 P 4 Gavitt T 1439 P 5

Gavitt T 1440 F 1 Gavitt T 1675 F 1-3 & 5 Gavitt T 1675 F 4

Gavitt T 1676 F 1 & 2 Gavitt T 1676 F 3 Gavitt T 3614 F 1

Gavitt T 3835 F 1

1. **Gavitt animal manure maximum numbers**
2. **Gavitt BMP Summary Spreadsheet**
3. **Gavitt Spreadsheet Summary**