

Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) Subcommittee Report

USDA – Agricultural Air Quality Task Force
Salt Lake City, Utah
May 13-16, 2008

AFO Subcommittee Members

- Gary Baise
- Paul Martin
- Bob Pike
- Wendy Powers
- Doug Shelmidine
- Ben Weinheimer

NRCS staff liaison: Greg Zwicke

AFO Subcommittee Meetings

Conference Calls & Meetings --

- Feb 2008
- May 2008
- Excellent email dialogue
 - Action Plan
 - Conference Call Notes

AFO Subcommittee Action Plan

1. USDA and/or its contractors – review existing conservation management practices (CMPs) research data, identify and evaluate new CMPs and report on progress at the next AAQTF meeting.

PROGRESS:

CSREES continues to fund work in this area.

Unfortunately, funding levels are inadequate to answer the questions facing animal operations.

Additional recommendation being made today.

AFO Subcommittee Action Plan

2. USDA requests that EPA provide updates to the AAQTF at each meeting in the future in response to specific requests for information developed by AAQTF members regarding the NAEMS research project, including steps to be taken after field data is collected.

PROGRESS:

The Secretary submitted a letter in February 2008 to the EPA Administrator requesting establishment of a Scientific and Independent Peer Review and Advisory Panel (SIPRAP) for the NAEMS project.

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3. USDA provide an update to the AAQTF at the next meeting on progress made toward developing a unified air research plan for all USDA agencies.

PROGRESS:

Coordination of air quality research programs continues to improve among all USDA agencies.

ARS – national program review

CSRESS – NRI

NRCS – conservation practice standards/EQIP

Additional recommendation being made today.

AFO Subcommittee Action Plan

4. EPA legal counsel review the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on greenhouse gases and provide an interpretation at the next AAQTF meeting to provide a basis for establishing research priorities.

PROGRESS:

Ms. Shaver will keep the AAQTF informed on any new developments associated with this issue. She will cover the subject in detail during her comments at this AAQTF meeting.

Thank you Ms. Shaver for the update at this meeting.

AFO Subcommittee Action Plan

Recommendations at this meeting –

1. Request that the Secretary, in consultation with USDA staff and members of the AAQTF, develop a written and publicly-available response to counter the scientific deficiencies and factual flaws presented in the Pew report on Industrial Farm Animal Production

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Recommendations at this meeting –

2. Request that the Secretary send a follow-up letter to the EPA Administrator
 - Re-iterate importance of hosting an annual meeting of the SIPRAP.
 - Request a briefing to the AAQTF on the status of the SIPRAP and updates from EPA staff on steps to be taken after NAEMS data collection.

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Recommendations at this meeting –

3. USDA competitive grants programs should allocate \$25 million per year for the development of innovative and economically feasible conservation management practices and their associated control efficiencies that can be reasonably implemented to mitigate air emissions. Secretary should request a matching \$25 million from EPA.

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Recommendations at this meeting –

4. Secretary coordinate with the EPA Administrator to establish a Joint Emission Factors Working Group consisting of members from the USDA's AAQTF and EPA's FRRCC with the sole purpose of incorporating new data into EPA's AP-42 Emission Factors document. The AAQTF can initiate this process by developing a white paper on recommendations for key Emission Factors that are in need of update.

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Thank you.

Questions?