

B. Non-Regulatory Tools, Guidance and Support Programs



Delaware

Manure Relocation Program

Delaware Department of Agriculture's (DDA) [Nutrient Management Relocation Program](#) (Program) provides financial assistance for transporting manure from areas of excess manure to areas in need, both within and outside Delaware, or to alternative use projects such as [Perdue AgriRecycle](#). Delaware farmers that relocate nutrients are eligible for payment of \$0.16 per mile per ton not to exceed \$18 per ton transported, contingent upon availability of funds. Payment rates are periodically recalculated to reflect market conditions, including fuel costs.

Requirements for nutrient exporters and importers receiving cost share payments under the Program are established in a [Conservation Practice Standard](#) developed by the Delaware Nutrient Management Program (DNMP, nd).

Cost Share Criteria Applicable to Farms That Export Manure

1. An eligible sender must maintain a valid animal waste plan/nutrient management plan indicating excessive nutrients due to inadequate land for application or high soil phosphorous levels.
2. An eligible sender must at a minimum be certified as a Delaware Nutrient Generator.
3. High phosphorous soil levels for senders are defined as greater than or equal to 150 Fertility Index Value. The Delaware Nutrient Management Program will supply a list of Delaware Nutrient Management Commission approved soil laboratories as well as conversion tables.
4. A manure nutrient analysis or nutrient content approved by a certified nutrient management consultant must be provided and documented stating the nutrient value of manure.

All identified senders that propose to transport manure must be located in Delaware and must be approved by the Delaware Nutrient Management Program (DNMP) prior to shipment of nutrients.

Cost Share Criteria Applicable to Farms that Import Manure

1. For land application, a nutrient management plan must be developed for the time period of nutrient application demonstrating the amount of manure needed. Eligible Delaware receivers of manure for land application must be certified, at a minimum, as a Delaware Private Nutrient Handler.
2. Soils eligible for land application are defined as less than or equal to 150 Fertility Index Value.
3. For alternative use, the operation must be recognized and approved by the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission.
4. The Delaware Nutrient Management Program, prior to receipt of nutrients, must approve all identified receivers.
5. The State Veterinarian may establish bio-security measures.
6. All stockpiling and storage of nutrients associated with relocation must adhere to standards set by public law and follow guidelines and regulations established by the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission pertaining to temporary stockpiling and storage of poultry litter.

Programmatic Framework and Resources

The Program's annual budget from state funds was \$246,000 in FY2012, FY2013, and FY2014. Additional funds were obtained from EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program (\$150,000 per year) and Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 Grants (\$100,000 per year). Delaware's poultry industry contributed \$147,891 in FY2014 and \$212,500 in FY2013 (EPA Region 3 2015).

Implementation

All Delaware farmers, persons, or businesses are eligible for the Program. Approximately 150 farms participate in the Program on an annual basis (EPA Region 3 2015). DDA reports participation in tons, not by participating farms.

Manure relocated with financial assistance under the Delaware Manure Relocation Program (DDA 2014a)

Destination	FY2014 (tons)	FY2013 (tons)
Farms within Delaware	14,245	22,817
Farms outside Delaware	16,203	20,088
Perdue AgriRecycle	9,084	14,025
Pennsylvania, composted for mushroom industry	11,403	2,603
Total	50,935	61,782

Results

In 2014, the Program relocated manure from six watersheds in two of Delaware's four drainages: Broad Creek, Nanticoke River, Bohemia Creek and Gum Branch in the Chesapeake Bay Drainage and Indian River Bay and Indian River in the Inland Bays/Atlantic Ocean Drainage. DDA identifies the Nanticoke River, Gum Branch, Indian River, and Indian River Bay watersheds as nutrient management critical areas. Farmers in the Piedmont and Delaware Bay Drainages did not participate in the Program in 2014 (DDA 2014a). The Program structure and participation requirements suggest that manure was removed from agricultural croplands with high phosphorus soil levels (≥ 150 Fertility Index Value) to croplands with Fertility Index Values less than 150 or to an alternate use. Delaware, to date, has not publicized summary-level or detailed information provided by nutrient exporters and importers who participate in the Program.

References

DDA (Delaware Department of Agriculture). 2014a. *Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Annual Report 2014*. <http://dda.delaware.gov/nutrients/downloads/annual_report_2014.pdf>. Accessed December 29, 2015.

Perdue AgriRecycle

Perdue AgriRecycle is Delaware's primary alternative use for poultry litter. Started in 2001, Perdue AgriRecycle is a large-scale, litter-pelletizing operation in Sussex County, Delaware. Perdue AgriRecycle provides professional cleanouts and hauling services to Delmarva (Delaware, Maryland Eastern Shore and Virginia Eastern Shore) poultry producers in exchange for surplus litter. Perdue AgriRecycle also participates in litter relocation programs, further reducing excess nutrients on the Delmarva Peninsula, and is a registered poultry litter broker in Maryland and Delaware. Perdue AgriRecycle processes the equivalent of 400 poultry houses worth of litter each year (Perdue 2014).

- DDA (Delaware Department of Agriculture). 2014b, April 1. *Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Annual Report*.
<http://dda.delaware.gov/nutrients/downloads/AnnualRpts/2013_NM_Gov_Annual.pdf>.
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<http://dda.delaware.gov/nutrients/downloads/Draft_TechStandards/Nutrient_Man_Relocation.pdf>. Accessed on December 29, 2015.
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<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/22592/delawareanimalagricultureprogramassessment.pdf>. Accessed December 29, 2015.
- Perdue (Perdue AgriRecycle). 2014. *Perdue AgriRecycle, LLC*.
<<http://www.perdueagrirecycle.com/about.html>>. Accessed December 29, 2015.
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