



Summarizing Pa's Odor Management Regulations (Act 38 of 2005)

Who is regulated:

- ✓ When new or existing Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) construct new or expand existing manure storage or animal housing facilities after February 27, 2009, (the effective date of the regulations) they will be required to develop and implement an Odor Management Plan (OMP) for those facilities. It should be stressed that **only** the manure storage or animal housing facilities that have new construction activities (building new or expanding existing facilities) are regulated facilities.
- ✓ The regulations do not apply to existing facilities nor do they address land application of manure.

What is an Odor Management Plan (OMP):

1. An odor management plan is a written site-specific plan that assesses potential odor impacts from animal housing facilities and manure storage facilities, and identifies practices, where relevant, to be implemented to manage the impact of offsite odors generated from these facilities.
 - Odor management plans are not required to eliminate odors, they only need to manage odor impacts. This aspect of the statute reflects the impracticality of completely eliminating odors associated with agricultural operations, as well as the evolving nature of the science of odor management and of the regulation of odor management.
 - Regulated farms must have an approved plan prior to construction of the new or expanded facilities, and they must fully implement the plan prior to commencing use of the new or expanded animal housing facility or manure storage facility.
2. The OMP has two main components: 1) an evaluation of the potential impacts; the preferred tool for evaluating the potential impacts is the Pennsylvania Odor Site Index, and 2) a listing of any necessary Odor BMPs to address odor impacts coming from the facilities covered under the plan.
 - First, an evaluation must be conducted, identifying the *potential* for odor impacts to neighboring properties. The regulations authorize use of the Odor Site Index developed by PSU odor management experts and approved by the Commission to perform this evaluation. Other evaluation methodologies are allowed, if approved by the SCC.
 - Second, if the evaluation identifies a medium or high potential for odor impacts, then the second step must be taken – identification of Odor BMPs to manage the odor impacts. This section envisions two levels of Odor BMPs, depending on the significance of the potential for odor impacts identified in the evaluation step. The SCC has issued an Odor Management Guidance document listing Odor BMPs consistent with this approach, and will issue the PA Odor BMP Reference List which provides detailed information on specific Odor BMP.

Notes:

- ✓ The new state odor management regulations preempt more stringent local regulations/ordinances on agricultural odors; however, they do not preempt the Nutrient Management Program criteria.
- ✓ Odor management plans must be written by a certified Odor Management Specialist. PDA administers the Odor Management Specialist Certification program.
- ✓ Odor management plans must be submitted for review and approval to the State Conservation Commission.
- ✓ Volunteers may also develop and implement odor management plans.
- ✓ The program allows for financial assistance for development of an odor management plan as well as for implementation of Odor BMPs in select situations. Farmers should contact the State Conservation Commission to assess the availability of funding for these efforts.
- ✓ For more information go to the State Conservation Commission's webpage at www.agriculture.pa.us/scc and click on the Odor Management Program link at the bottom of the page or contact [Karl Dymond](#) at (570) 836-2181.