



Chester County Conservation District

Mushroom Farm Environmental Management Plan (MFEMP):

Fact Sheet

1. **What is a Mushroom Farm Environmental Management Plan?** It is a carefully planned and documented record outlining how the mushroom farmer intends within practical limits to manage the farm operation to prevent pollution incidents and to maintain and improve the conditions of the soil, water, and air resources.
2. **Who will have to develop a MFEMP?** All farms which produce mushrooms, mushroom substrate, and all mushroom soil processors.
3. **Why should I develop a MFEMP?** Besides being a good steward of our natural resources, a farmer should develop a plan because: an implemented plan will give some protection in case of an accidental pollution event, and the farmer may be exempted for some DEP permitting processes by use of the Mushroom Manual and the developing and implementing a plan.
4. **What is included in a MFEMP?** The plan is a site-specific plan including aerial photographs and natural resource features of the operation. The plan shall identify the needed Best Management Practices and a schedule to install them. The plan should address the following areas:
 - 1) Erosion and the Sediment Control
 - 2) Storm Water Management
 - 3) Ground Water Management
 - 4) Nutrient Management
 - 5) Integrated Pest Management
 - 6) Operation and Maintenance of the Best Management Practices
 - 7) Implementation Schedule
 - 8) Air Quality Management
 - 9) Waste Water Management
 - 10) Spent Substrate Management
 - 11) Emergency Preparedness Plan
5. **Who will help me prepare my MFEMP?** Your local conservation district and hired consultants are available to assist you in the preparation of a plan, but no matter who writes the plan it must have a final review and approval by the county Conservation District. Conservation Districts are county organizations that work very closely with the South East Regional Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Conservation Districts are

non-regulatory local group who seek voluntary compliance to the resource regulations. The districts enable their cooperators to utilize the services of the Districts Cooperating Agencies such as Natural Resource Conservation Services, Farm Service Agency, Extension Services, etc. Most likely you as a farmer will be working directly with the District or Natural Resource Conservation Service Staff in developing your plan. The Conservation District Board must approve the Conservation Plan once it has been developed.

6. **Who will provide technical assistance in helping me implement my plan?** The Conservation District and NRCS will help you implement your plan. The District and NRCS, depending on staffing and resources, can provide you detailed engineering plans on BMPS, and will work with your contractor to insure the BMPS are installed correctly.
7. **Is there any financial assistance to help me implement a MFEMP?** There are usually cost incentive programs with funds available to implement Best Management Practices depending on your location. The district has been able to secure some funding through demonstration programs in the past. Ask about the Red/White Clay cost share program.
8. **I want to develop a MFEMP now. How and where do I start?** You can start by contacting your local county conservation district and they can provide a list of consultants that are able to write Mushroom Farm Environmental Management Plans.

Chester County Conservation District: (610) 925-4920
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): (610)-696-0398
Penn State Cooperative Extension Service: (610)-696-3500
Farm Service Agency: (610)-696-0398
Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) Water Quality: (484) 250-5900

688 Unionville Road Suite 200
Kennett Square PA 19348
(610) 925-4920 ~ Fax (610) 925-4925