B. Non-Regulatory Tools, Guidance, and Support Programs

Oregon

Recordkeeping Calendar and Online Database

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) provides paper and electronic recordkeeping and reporting tools for facilities of all sizes.

ODA publishes two recordkeeping calendars, one for Small and Medium concentrated or confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and one for Large CAFOs (Figure 1). These calendars, published in PDF format for hard copy records, provide inspection and recordkeeping reminders and prompt operators about upcoming due dates and seasonal considerations. Space is provided on the calendar to document land application data and impoundment inspections.

Figure 1. ODA's Large CAFOs Recordkeeping Calendar

ODA also offers an online recordkeeping database called Online Decision making and Record Keeping (ODARK, Figure 2). ODARK is used by operators for recordkeeping and is also capable of auto-generating an annual report based on information recorded by the operator. ODA designed ODARK to:

- Be a user friendly computer-based record keeping system for nutrient application;
- Assist operators with determining the right time, right amount, right source, and right place to apply nutrients; and
- Generate nutrient application reports to satisfy permitting requirements and other purposes.

ODARK, for example, tracks how much nitrogen and phosphorus have been land applied to each field, based on data entered by the operator, and generates a warning when a field is nearing the maximum nutrient capacity. ODARK requires log-in information to access an operation's recordkeeping database.

Figure 2. Example ODARK Functions

Operators customize their recordkeeping needs using a navigation pane located at the left of the ODARK webpage. At the end of the year, ODARK can compile all necessary information and generate an Annual Report as required in Part S4.D.3 (Annual Report) of the NPDES General Permit #01. According to ODA, the ODARK-generated annual report addresses most, but not all, of the General Permit annual report requirements.

Use of the calendars and ODARK is voluntary.

Programmatic Framework and Resources

The development of ODARK was funded through United States Department of Agriculture Conservation Innovation Grants and money collected by ODA from CAFO enforcement actions. CAFO enforcement action fees also fund development of the recordkeeping calendars.

Implementation

ODA estimates that 25 facilities use the ODARK system and approximately 80 percent of Oregon's 525 permitted facilities use the recordkeeping calendars.

References

ODARK (Online Decision Making and Record Keeping) Website. https://www.odark.org/. Accessed January 6, 2017.