



Regulatory Challenges for Local Agriculture

Farm Technology Review Commission
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- ♦ Regulatory Challenges:
 - Resource Management
 - Local Processing
- ♦ Existing Inter-Agency Collaborative Approaches:
 - Pilot Programs and Memoranda of Agreement
- ♦ Streamlining of Review Process:
 - Resource Challenges for State Agencies




Regulatory Challenges




- ♦ Resource Management
 - Waste and Wastewater
- ♦ Processing and Sale of Locally
Produced Food




Waste and Wastewater Management

- ♦ Every agricultural sector generates some form of waste
- ♦ Agricultural waste is managed by farmers for its resource value and applied to the land
- ♦ Agricultural Waste is defined by DEP as a “pollutant”
- ♦ There are risks to environmental resources and public health if waste is not managed properly
- ♦ Technical assistance through Nutrient Management Planning and other programs can help farmers manage the environmental and public health risks




Waste Streams

- Milkhouse wastewater





Waste Streams

- Milkhouse wastewater
- Anaerobic digester effluent



Existing Small Facility (Germany) – Quarter of Acre



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Slide 9

Manure



Waste Streams

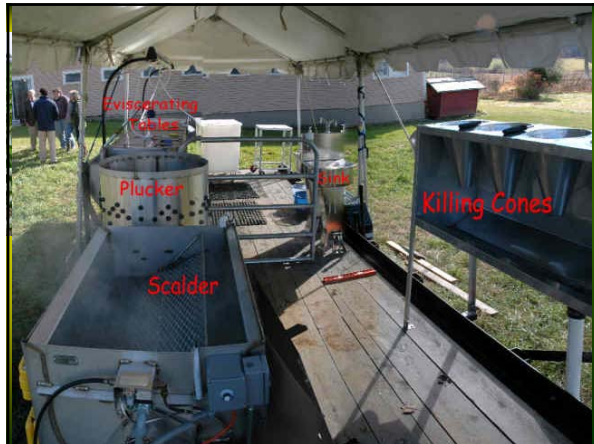
- Milkhouse wastewater
 - Producer Handler Operations
- Anaerobic digester effluent
- Manure
- MPPU wastewater
- Processing wastewater
- Vegetable and produce wash-water
- Maple Sugaring
- Meat Processing



Processing and Sale of Locally Produced Food

- ♦ Processing livestock
 - Mobile Poultry Processing Unit





Processing and Sale of Locally Produced Food

- ♦ Processing and sale of livestock
 - Mobile Poultry Processing Unit
 - Shellfish at Farmers Markets
 - Meat Processing



Existing Interagency Approaches to Deal with Challenges



Waste Management

- Milkhouse wastewater:
 - MOA with DEP for Wastewater Treatment Strip



MOU with DEP for MHW management using a wastewater treatment strip

NRCS Standard 635



- ♦ waste water distributed across a vegetated infiltration strip
- ♦ settling tanks and grease traps remove solids and fats
- ♦ reductions in P, N and COD have been noted in studies
- ♦ requires maintenance and may ultimately need to be reconditioned

♦ Waste Management


- Milkhouse wastewater:
 - MOA with DEP for Wastewater Treatment Strip
- Anaerobic digester effluent
 - Joint regulatory oversight.
 - Inputs: MassDEP through D.O.N. process
 - Output: MDAR through Fertilizer Regulation
- Mobile Poultry Processing Unit wastewater
 - MassDEP/ MDPH/ MDAR
- Manure
 - Under discussion at DEP. Possible Interim Strategy







Processing and Sale of Locally Produced Food

- ♦ Processing and sale of livestock
 - Mobile Poultry Processing Unit
 - MDPH Pilot Program in third year
 - Shellfish at Farmers Markets
 - Pilot Program under review
 - Meat Processing
 - For FTRC ...?





Streamlining of Review Process

Resource Challenges for State Agencies

- ♦ Proposed interagency review of current efforts
 - Identify data needs
 - Prioritization of future issues
 - Applicability of existing mechanisms such as BUDs and General Permits
 - Limits of regulatory definitions
 - Need for a model and focused effort
- ♦ Resources
 - How to address when resources are limited ?




•Commission Thoughts?

