HEIFERS ON CAFO "PASTURES"
WPDES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Ben Uvaas, February 2015
Definitions

- **Pasture**
  - Where animals graze in large open areas. Not adjacent to or connected to a CAFO production area, and where stocking densities, management systems, and management of feed sources ensure that sufficient vegetative cover is maintained over the entire area at all times.
  - A pasture, by definition in s. NR 243, is not part of a CAFO.

- **Sufficient Vegetative Cover**
  - Vegetation or crop residue that slows the movement of and limits contaminated runoff and soil erosion
Definitions

- **Production Area**
  - Part of a CAFO that includes the animal confinement area, the manure storage area, the raw materials storage area, and the waste containment areas but not CAFO vegetated areas.
  - The animal confinement area includes but is not limited to open lots, housed lots, feedlots, confinement houses, stall barns, free stall barns, milkrooms, milking centers, cowyards, barnyards, medication pens, walkers, animal walkways and stables.
  - Subject to WPDES Permit Production Area Discharge Limitations
Definitions

- **CAFO Outdoor Vegetated Area**
  - A large open outdoor vegetated area of land used by CAFO animals that is owned or operated by a CAFO and is adjacent or connected to, but not part of, the production area.
  - **Not subject to WPDES Permit Production Area Discharge Limitations**
Maintain Sufficient Vegetative Cover By:

- Manage stocking densities and timing
- Implement management systems (i.e. rotational grazing)
- Manage feed sources and watering areas
- Prohibit access to waterways and wetlands
- Utilize buffers around sensitive areas
- Conduct quarterly visual inspections and perform timely maintenance
- Comply with other measures to protect surface and groundwater quality as specified in your WPDES permit
Manage Stocking Density
Management Systems
Management Systems
Management Systems
Manage Feed Sources
Buffers

August 13, 2014

September 29, 2014
Buffers

July 7, 2009

April 29, 2014
Buffers
Regular Maintenance & Prohibited Access
Special Considerations

- Walkways and Cattle Lanes
  - Unless maintained in sufficient vegetation, these are part of the production area and subject to discharge limitations
  - Manage by collecting manure and runoff
  - Position far away from water resources and install buffers

- Temporary Confinement
  - Good insurance during conditions that could damage vegetation and cause polluted discharges
Special Considerations: Out-wintering

- Out-wintering
  - Special precautions
  - Sufficient vegetation must be quickly recovered in spring
  - Temporary confinement
Special Considerations: Sandy soils

- Sandy Soils
  - Not likely to be acceptable due to groundwater concerns
Questions?

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