

CHAPTER 8 - OHIO AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAM

ADMINISTRATION

Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP) is administered by Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) and implemented locally by all 88 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). 901:13-1 of the Ohio Administrative Code establish state standards for a level of management and conservation practices in farming and animal feeding operations to abate pollution to waters of the state from soil sediment, animal manure and residual farm products from on their farms. 901:13-1 of the Ohio Administrative Code also defines Ohio's pollution abatement grant program for landowners and operators to voluntarily install best management practices and conservation practices.

The Chief of Ohio Department of Agriculture-DSWC has entered into cooperative agreements with all 88 SWCDs to implement the APAP. SWCDs assist ODA-DSWC in implementing the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program by providing landowners and farm operators' technical assistance, advice and expertise and informing them of the level of management and conservation necessary to comply with the rules and standards. SWCD Board of Supervisors or their designees perform the following tasks:

- Approve or disapprove nutrient management plans;
- Approve or disapprove operation and management plans;
- Investigate agricultural pollution complaints; and
- Record and document all complaints regarding agricultural pollution, and provide those documents to ODA-DSWC (Beehive)

When violations of the rules and standards under the APAP cannot be resolved voluntarily, the SWCD may refer the case over to ODA-DSWC or ODA-DSWC may obtain the complaint from the SWCD to pursue further enforcement that may include civil penalties, administrative penalties and corrective actions.

LAW AND RULES

[Chapter 939 of Ohio Revised Code](#)

The Director of Agriculture, shall establish technically feasible and economically reasonable standards to achieve a level of management and conservation practices in farming operations that will abate wind or water erosion of the soil or abate the degradation of the waters of the state by residual farm products, manure or soil sediment, including attached substances, and establish criteria for determination of the acceptability of such management and conservation practices.

[Chapter 901:13-1 of Ohio Administrative Code](#)

The chart below describes the rules that apply to the control of pollutants from areas within the state used for agricultural production operations, including land being used for the production or keeping of animals or for the production of agricultural crops.

OAC Rule	Description
901:13-1-01	General provisions.
901:13-1-02	Overflow and discharge from animal manure collection, storage or treatment facilities
901:13-1-03	Seepage from animal manure management facilities
901:13-1-04	Manure contaminated runoff from feedlots and manure management facilities
901:13-1-05	Other waste waters
901:13-1-06	Flooding of animal feeding operations
901:13-1-07	Sheet and rill erosion
901:13-1-08	Gully erosion
901:13-1-09	Wind erosion
901:13-1-10	Exemption form
901:13-1-11	Land application of animal manure
901:13-1-12	Placing and sloughing
901:13-1-13	Composting of animal mortality
901:13-1-14	Agricultural pollution abatement cost sharing
901:13-1-15	Administrative procedures
901:13-1-16	Operating procedures
901:13-1-17	Director's orders
901:13-1-18	Grants
901:13-1-19	Nutrient management planning requirements for watersheds in distress
901:13-1-20	Designating watersheds in distress
901:13-1-99	Civil penalties

AGREEMENTS AND POLICIES

The ODA-DSWC maintains a website with guidance documents, complaint forms and other documents to assist SWCDs with carrying out APAP responsibilities. To view the complete website visit <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/soil-and-water-conservation/local-swcd-resources>. Under Resources for SWCDs, choose the tab "SWCD Forms and Guidance Documents", then select the drop down for "Agriculture Pollution Abatement."

Below are some of the resources available to assist SWCDs with implementing the agriculture pollution abatement laws.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Handling Complaints

The SOP provides a step by step outline for SWCDs to refer to as they receive and investigate agricultural pollution abatement complaints.

Entering Agricultural Complaints into BEEHIVE

A step-by-step webinar has been created to guide SWCDs in entering agricultural pollution complaints into BEEHIVE. All agricultural complaints must be entered into the BEEHIVE database within 10 working days after receiving the complaint.

APAP On-line Training Course

A new on-line training course was developed in 2021 to help SWCDs better understand the Agriculture Pollution Abatement Program, how to investigate an agricultural pollution complaint, and how to properly document the complaint in the BEEHIVE database.

APAP Cost Share Program

The APAP has typically provided cost share dollars to assist operations that are seeking voluntary compliance. Funds are limited and ODA-DSWC Program Specialists should be contacted to check on availability and to apply for funds.