



# Environmental Agriculture Program

Newsletter Issue No. 4 - Fall 2014



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## Useful Links

- ▶ [Regulations](#)
- ▶ [Forms](#)
- ▶ [Contacts](#)
- ▶ [Guidance and Policies](#)

[Click here to find your local health agency](#)

## Important Dates

### Inspection Responses

Inspection Responses are due no later than 120 days after receipt of final inspection report.

### Holiday Schedule

The State Offices will be closed for the following holidays:

Veterans Day - Nov. 11  
Thanksgiving - Nov. 27  
Christmas Day - Dec. 25  
New Years Day - Jan. 1  
MLK Day - Jan. 19

## **KEEP IN TOUCH:**

Click here for the  
[Technical Assistance  
Contact Map](#)  
by county

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## Welcome!

Welcome to the Environmental Agriculture Program's quarterly newsletter. We offer news, updates, insights and trainings through this newsletter. Our hope is to foster understanding and cooperation between the Ag Program and the community we serve.

## News and Events

### The Ag Program has Moved (slightly)

Effective October 13th the Ag Program has relocated to our new offices. Although not far, we moved from one building to another, we have a new mailing address. All regular mail should now be address as follows:

Environmental Agriculture Program  
Colorado Department of Public Health and  
Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, DEHS-A2  
Denver, CO 80246-1530

All of the other contact information for the program including email addresses and phone numbers have not changed.

### New Inspection Season

The new inspection season has begun. Inspections began in October and will continue through the spring of 2015. If you facility is selected for an inspection this year you should notice a couple of improvements to our processes.

In an effort to improve efficiency we have shortened our turn around time for inspection reports from 45 days to 30 days after an inspection. Facilities will still have 120 days to resolve any corrective actions and return to compliance.

We have also created a new Post Inspection Summary form that will be left at the facility once the inspection is complete. These forms will informally summarize any deficiencies found during the inspection and serve as a reminder of any needed improvements until the final inspection report arrives. Our goal is to help reduce the time out of compliance for Colorado facilities and to showcase how dedicated the Colorado ag community is about protecting our environment.

If your facility is selected for an inspection this year it is very important that the operator of the facility be present during the inspection. Having the facility operator present allows our inspectors to get answers to questions they may have about the facility from the person who knows their operation best. Often, issues that might show up as corrective actions can be resolved if the operator is present. In

On the Web:  
[www.colorado.gov/cdphe/cafos](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/cafos)

 [CDPHE on Facebook](#)

 [CDPHE on Twitter](#)

 [CDPHE on YouTube](#)



addition, the inspector can explain any issues found during the inspection to the operator and explain why these issues need to be corrected. If you have a conflict with a scheduled inspection please let our inspectors know so we can reschedule the inspection for a more convenient time.

### Environmental Leadership Awards

The Environmental Leadership Awards program recently held its annual awards ceremony and has awarded four agriculture related companies recognition at the Bronze Achiever Level for 2014!

The four award winners are:

Colorado Association of Wheat Growers  
Colorado Corn Growers Association  
Colorado Livestock Association  
Mountain Prairie, LLC

Congratulations to these companies for being environmental leaders for the Colorado ag community!

To learn more about the Environmental Leadership Program and/or how to be involved please visit the program website:

[Environmental Leadership Program](#)

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## **Regulatory Update**

### Waters of the U.S. Rule

The comment period for the proposed changes to the Waters of The United States Rule has been extended until November 14, 2014. The proposed Rule change is designed to help reduce confusion of what exactly is considered to be Water of the U.S. The proposed rule change is not designed to protect any new types of waters, broaden the coverage of the Clean Water Act, expand jurisdiction over ditches or regulate groundwater. If you would like to read the proposed rule, make a comment or learn more about how the changes may or may not affect agriculture please click the link below:

[Waters of the United States Proposal](#)

### Clean Water Act Turns 42!

The Clean Water Act turned 42 years old this month! Did you know that when the Clean Water Act was first enacted in 1972 that only one third of the waters in the United States were deemed safe for fishing and swimming? Today over two-thirds of the waters in the US are deemed safe! Did you know that outdoor recreation alone generates over \$13 Billion annually in consumer spending and 125,000 jobs in Colorado! Considering Colorado's two biggest industries, tourism and agriculture are dependent upon clean water, I think a little cake might be in order!

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## **CAFO Roundtable**

The Ag Program's two newest members attended the National CAFO Roundtable, hosted in Des Moines, Iowa in early October. This is an annual event organized by the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA). The roundtable is an excellent opportunity for state and federal CAFO/AFO/ HCSFO regulators and stakeholders to

meet and discuss the regulations they deal with every day, the challenges they present, and innovative solutions and state programs.

The event started with field trip that included the Iowa State University dairy, Brooks Road Swine Operation, and Couser Cattle Company feedlot. The tour finished at the [Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge](#) for a glimpse of the tall grass prairie that once covered most of the state. The facilities provided an interesting cross section of the agricultural operations across Iowa.

Representatives from the EPA, Iowa State University, National Pork Board, USGS, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, NRCS, Wright Water Engineers, Water Environment Research Foundation, and local producers all spoke during the event. A common thread through many of the talks was what can be achieved when producers and state and federal regulators are able to sit at the same table and collaborate to achieve regulatory compliance and to protect the natural resources we all depend on. A regional break out session gave regulators from different states a chance to talk about their top regulatory challenges and ways that the EPA/USDA could be more helpful. Though there are differences across state CAFO programs, many of the challenges were the same. The breakout session was also a chance to learn from the experiences of neighboring states.

The following are speaker highlights that addressed water quality protection:

The [STRIPS project](#), started at the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge. The STRIPS project is researching the use of small areas of prairie strategically placed in row-crop areas to manage runoff and mitigate soil loss.

The development of an [Agricultural BMP Database](#) for managing agricultural runoff. The database is still in development, but is designed to be an important resource for improving BMP selection and design.



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### Questions? Concerns?

Do you have an idea for an newsletter article? Do you have questions or concerns regarding regulatory compliance, inspections, or enforcement? Please contact us at the email or phone numbers listed above and we will be glad to assist you.

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