



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Dairy Nutrient Management Program (DNMP) Report to the Legislature

September 28, 2017
Ag Water Quality Advisory
Committee

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Dairy Nutrient Management Program (DNMP)



Protect water quality from livestock nutrient discharges and help maintain a healthy agricultural business climate

Authorizing Environment:

RCW 90.64 the Dairy Nutrient Management Act
WAC 16-611 Nutrient Management

Approximately 400 dairies

- Covers all licensed dairies
- Performs inspections
- Conducts investigations
- Provides technical assistance



☐ Funding - \$575,000 (state toxics control account)

-state appropriation provided solely to implement a nutrient management training program for farmers that provides training in agronomic application of dairy nutrients, as defined in RCW 90.64.010...The Department, in consultation with interested stakeholders, shall identify gaps in the manure management program, including existing rules and statutory language, and report on a strategy to address those gaps....



Dairy Nutrient Advisory Committee (DNAC)



- ❑ The Dairy Nutrient Advisory Committee (DNAC) was formed by Director Sandison in June of 2016.

Intent: Gather diverse ideas to ensure DNMP functions optimally within its scope of work.

Members: WSU, conservation commission, Department of Ecology, conservation district staff, representatives from agricultural, livestock, and crop organizations, environmental organizations, tribal government representatives, and certified crop advisers.

Meetings: DNAC met with Director Sandison six times between September 2017 and March 2017. DNAC will continue meeting to provide ongoing input to and as a sounding board for the Director on dairy nutrient management.



❑ Offsite Dairy Manure

Manure from dairies does not have to be managed to the same standard off the dairy farm as it does on the dairy farm.



Identified Issues

❑ Penalties

Existing dairy penalties are not consistent and are not necessarily meaningful or a deterrent to violation.



Identified Issues



❑ Nutrient Management Plans (NMP)

There is no penalty for failure to follow or update a NMP.

- NMPs are not easy to use or apply.
- Lack of adequate resources for preparing and certifying NMPs

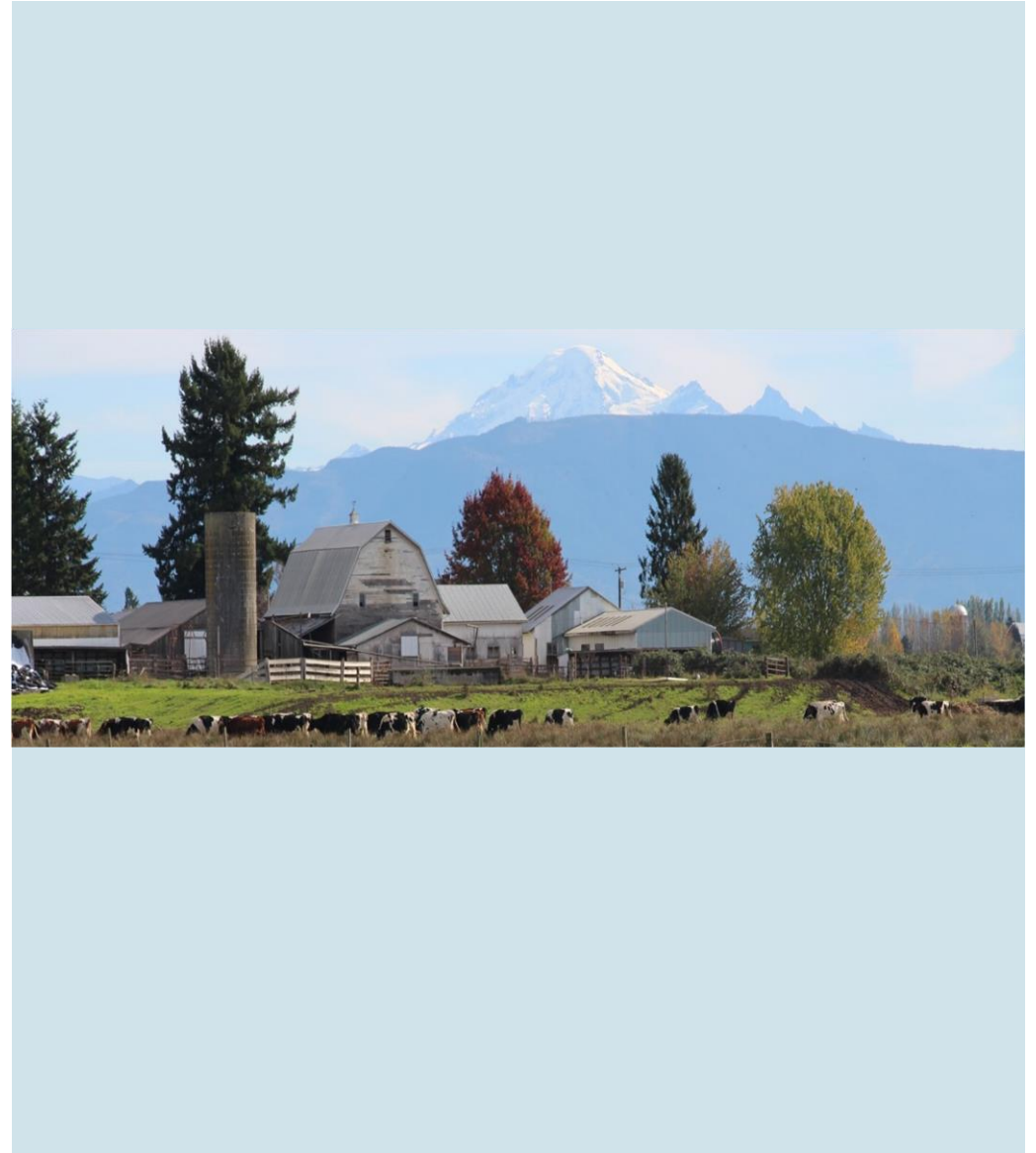


Identified Issues



☐ Tools, Training and Technical Assistance

- Lack of adequate tools for on-site decision making
- Lack of adequate resources for technical training and assistance



Next Steps



- Continue to review the DNMP
- Seek funding for possible solutions to identified issues
- Continue to hold DNAC meetings



Questions?

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Report can be found at: <https://agr.wa.gov/FP/Pubs/docs/634-DNMP2017LegReport.pdf>

