

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 on farms in order to abate excessive soil erosion or the pollution of waters of the state by soil sediment and animal manure. These rules also define Ohio's pollution abatement grant program for landowners or operators to voluntarily install conservation practices.

The Chief of ODA-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 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; and
- Investigate agricultural pollution complaints.

When agricultural pollution violations cannot be resolved voluntarily, the division may choose to issue Director's Orders or assess civil penalties to those failing to comply with rules and standards.

LAW AND RULES

[Chapter 939 of Ohio Revised Code](#)

The Chief of ODA-DSWC 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 animal waste or by soil sediment including substances attached thereto, 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 agricultural production operations, including land being used for the production or keeping of animals or for the production of agricultural crops. A copy of the [Agricultural Pollution Abatement Rule Book](#) is available as an appendix to this chapter.

Ohio Administrative Code	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 [click here](#).

The following are supporting documents to assist SWCDs with implementing Ag 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 Complaints into Soil and Water Information Management System \(SWIMs\)](#)

This document provides a step by step process for SWCDs entering pollution complaints in SWIMs. All complaints must be entered into the SWIMs database within 10 working days of receiving the complaint.

[APAP Cost Share Program and Advisory Report](#)

The APAP program 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.