



August 22, 2018

Dear Delmarva Land & Litter Steering Committee Members,

During the April 30 Steering Committee meeting, Andrew McLean asked the Mass Balance Workgroup to work in committee to resolve the outstanding issues and come to consensus before bringing the draft report to the Steering Committee. The Mass Balance Co-Chairs worked very hard to do this but were not able to reach consensus. The draft report was never presented to the Steering Committee for review. After the July 30 Steering Committee meeting, it became clear to the Executive Committee that full transparency required that the draft report and list of unresolved items be shared with you all.

The Delmarva Land and Litter Challenge (DLLC) brings together a diverse set of stakeholders to address connections between poultry production and water quality on the Delmarva Peninsula. Our members work collaboratively to develop mutual respect and shared understanding between representatives from environmental, agricultural industry, and governmental organizations.

Two years ago, the DLLC began work on a mass balance to develop a better, more granular understanding of where surpluses or deficits of agricultural nutrients applied to cropland exist on the Delmarva. Our objective was to develop science and data-backed, county specific numbers for the region to better inform poultry litter usage and transportation.

Our Mass Balance Workgroup, comprised of representatives from academia, agriculture industry, state and federal government agencies and environmental non-profits, worked diligently to develop detailed methods for a mass balance assessment of the Delmarva. They relied on the best available data at the time, including the 2012 US Agriculture Census report. The process was developed in part through trial and error, as every technical assumption and recalculation took tremendous amount of ground truthing and time.

The Mass Balance Data Analysis Team and Co-Chairs completed a draft report that ultimately presented challenges that impeded consensus support. Three main areas requiring resolution still exist:

1. **Crop yield goal assumptions:** Consensus within the workgroup could not be reached on what data and assumptions should be used to determine yield goals.
2. **Phosphorus application rates for each crop type:** Agreement could not be reached on appropriate phosphorus application rates for various crops and how best to account for land that is double cropped.
3. **P application Rates as it relates to P Soil Levels for Cropland P FIV <150:** Consensus could not be reached on whether to use medium P soil level (26 - 50) for all acreage under P FIV 150 or to assume a P FIV of 75, the mid-point between 0 and 150.

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Relief Farm

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U.S. EPA

Hans Schmidt

Maryland Dept. of Agriculture

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Maryland Grain Producers

Lisa Wool

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The DLLC Executive Committee believes that these issues can be resolved through further discussion and documentation. However, knowing that the Mass Balance Workgroup has already committed two years to this work, the Executive Committee voted to pause the process and wait until the 2017 US Agriculture Census report and numbers are released before proceeding. When newer data is available, DLLC can revisit the process and the potential to run a range of scenarios examining litter management options.

The Mass Balance work, specifically, and the DLLC work, generally, is challenging. Stakeholders with a legacy of contention, mistrust and combative relationships, have committed to working collaboratively toward win-win, grass roots level solutions to the challenge of fostering viable, sustainable agriculture and a healthy Chesapeake Bay. Given the history and the issues in front of us, our work has and will experience fits and starts. A firm commitment to working together, to finding ways to do things differently than we've done them in the past can provide the leadership and the energy that is essential in getting to the win-win solutions we've said that we want.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. L. McLean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew McLean
Chair, DLLC