Fluid Fertilizer Conference

Emerging Nutrient Issues

Presented by,

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Global Warming Initiative

- Objective is to reduce agriculture's contribution of Green House Gases.

- Areas of cited concern include: manure management, enteric fermentation, fertilizer management, Ag residue burning, energy use, rice cultivation.

- Primary areas of interest for fast-track consideration is fertilizer management, and manure management.
Global Warming Initiative

- ARB estimates agricultural emissions responsible for 6% of total emissions.

- ARB estimates fertilizer usage contributes to about 1/3 of this total.

- Goal was by fall 2008 to provide ARB board with recommendations on “voluntary” guidelines for reduction strategy.
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Potential fertilizer management strategies include:

- Crop Management
- Water Management
- Fertilizer Application Techniques
- Fertilizer Selection
Global Warming Initiative

Industry Efforts

- Since fall of 2007 WPHA has been meeting with ARB staff to determine foundation for their estimates.
  - Because of these meetings, ARB now acknowledges that the data they were basing contributions on was flawed.

- Meeting with university researchers who conducted fertilizer research on fertilizer VOC emissions.
  - Industry is funding $175,000 in research on N emissions over the next two years.
  - Industry has also agreed to fund a staff position with CDFA solely focused on fertilizers and climate change.
  - WPHA has helped coordinate approximately another $500,000 in research from ARB & the CA Energy Commission.

- Air Resources Board has tentatively agreed to postpone any discussions on regulations related to fertilizers and this issue until fall 2010.
- A final vote is expected tomorrow in Sacramento.
Ag Subgroup is coordinated by the Central Valley Water Board. Of interest to WPHA is potential BMPs for nitrates and phosphates in surface water.

Water Board is concerned about the following:
- Contribution to algae blooms
- Currently no numeric target or water quality objective set except in some TMDLs
- Need for setting secondary maximum concentration levels for odor.

Water Board has announced they have hired consultants to develop analytical modeling to establish guidelines and objectives.

WPHA is a member of the Ag Subgroup that will validate work and recommendations done by consultants.
Groundwater concerns (nitrates) have been elevated to the Water Board over the past few years. This has been a focus of EJ groups who want outside funding for water infrastructure efforts.

State & Regional Water Boards have all indicated they now feel they have jurisdiction (until recently they have restricted their authority to surface water issues) over groundwater issues and will promulgate regulations.

Irrigated agriculture and dairies have been identified as primary areas of concern.

WPHA has been named to represent both the fertilizer and pesticide industries on an Advisory Committee reviewing the issue.

Committee will work with Water Board staff over the next two years to develop long-term “alternatives” program.
Additional Issues That May Impact Nutrients

- OEHHA has convened an Advisory Committee looking at cumulative impacts & environmental justice.
  - OEHHA has identified doing a case study in a rural Central Valley community as a priority study.

- The On-Road Diesel Engine Rule will impact the cost of transporting nutrients. ARB is to vote on inclusion of retailers in an Ag Provision tomorrow.

- WPHA will begin negotiations on the Off-Road Diesel rule for farm tractors and application equipment in January with ARB. This rule will impact availability and cost of nutrient applications.