United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

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SUBJECT: Technical Guide Notice No. 38

DATE: February 28, 1998

TO: All Holders of the PA Technical Guide

FILE CODE: 450 - 11

Purpose. To transmit a new Technical Guide reference document "Pennsylvania Farm*A*Syst Farm Evaluation System"

Background. "Pennsylvania Farm*A*Syst Farm Evaluation System" is a self-evaluation farmers and landowners can use to evaluate water quality risks on their operations. It helps them identify simple corrective measures they can implement to make improvements. This is a modification of the original Wisconsin model, adapted to Pennsylvania conditions. Farm*A*Syst is being used in most of the United States and several Canadian provinces.

Farm*A*Syst evaluates situations that have potential for civil liability and/or regulatory action. While farmers and landowners may voluntarily share results of Farm*A*Syst with others, this is not required; confidentiality can be maintained if the farmer or landowner has control over completed evaluations. You may want to provide guidance on how to complete the evaluation or where to get technical or financial assistance.

Some states have computerized versions of Farm*A*Syst, and the NRCS FOCS computer database has capability to include an optional Farm*A*Syst component. No computer version will be developed at this time; Pennsylvania Farm*A*Syst will be available in paper format only.

Filing Instructions. File with PATG Section 1 as Reference No. 112. Make an addition to the "Numerical List of References" that reads "Pennsylvania Farm*A*Syst Farm Evaluation System;" add similar listings under "Subject List of References for Water Resources - Drinking Water," "Water Resources - Ground Water," and "Water Resources - Surface Water."

General. Additional copies are available from county Cooperative Extension offices or directly from the Penn State Agricultural Publications Office. See ordering information on the inside pocket of the folder.

Robin E. Heard, acting

JANET L. OERTLY
State Conservationist

Enclosure