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Subject: Upcoming Seminar on Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs)

You are invited to attend an upcoming seminar on the proposed Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations. The seminar will be held Thursday November 12, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 125 of Clayton Hall, University of DE. This seminar is being sponsored jointly by the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences and the Delaware Water Resources Center of the University of DE. Roberta Parry, National Program Manager of Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, D.C. will present the draft National Strategy at the seminar.

The proposed Unified National Strategy for AFOs was developed jointly by USDA and EPA. It was published in the Federal Register September 17, 1998 and is now undergoing public review for a period of four months. During these months public meetings will be held to promote discussion with interested parties and to receive feedback on how the Strategy could be improved to better meet its objectives. The upcoming seminar will address how the draft Strategy was developed, what the relationship is between AFOs and environmental and public health, what the national performance expectations are for AFO owners and operators, and what actions federal and State agencies will be expected to take in order to protect water quality and public health, while promoting environmentally sound and sustainable livestock production.

EPA and USDA estimate that between 15,000 and 20,000 Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) will be required to have permits under the priorities proposed by the draft Strategy. Currently only about 2,000 CAFOs have permits. Large areas of Delaware, such as the Inland Bays and other impaired watersheds, contain AFOs which would most likely be subject to permit requirements under the draft Strategy due to aggregate water quality impacts on a watershed scale.

By attending the upcoming seminar you will learn more about the proposed Unified National Strategy and about ways to participate in providing comments and feedback at future public meetings. Please inform others in your department or organization who you think would be interested in attending the seminar. Thank you. I look forward to seeing you November 12th at Clayton Hall.

If you have any questions regarding the AFO seminar, please contact Dr. Tom Sims (jtsims@udel.edu), Director, DE Water Resources Center (DWRC) and Professor of Soil and Environmental Chemistry, or Cynthia Greene (cgreene@udel.edu), Research Assistant, DWRC.