Animal BMP Excess

10/2/2025

Tom Butler, EPA

A timeline

May 2025

- Initial review request for processing of several animal BMPs

June 2025

- Continued discussion and fleshing out of request

July 2025

- Animal Waste Management Systems
- Mortality Disposal

August 2025

- Riparian fencing
- Analyze AU excluded
- Collect width data

September 2025

- Data collection analysis and recommendation

Focus areas:

Question	Change required?	Suggested change
Do we need to revisit the default exclusion fencing conversion? (1000ft of fencing = 17.6 Animal Units)	Maybe	• That default AU conversion was based on a Virginia pasture study. • We are looking at the ratio of AU to acres for each state/county to see if this ratio is consistent across the watershed
Should the default be wider? (10-foot width for narrow buffers and 35 for full buffers)	Likely, yes	• Don't only see much wider buffers (wider than 35'), but sometimes see practices stacked beyond that buffer. • Data call is out asking states to provide buffer widths.

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17.6 Animal Units Conversion

- Goal:
  - See if 17.6 AU excluded per 1000 linear ft is supported by CAST data
- Information used:
  - 2013-2014 data products
  - Acres of pasture that are eligible to be buffered
  - Animal Units
- Serve as a comparison to the VA study data

Buffer eligible acres and Animal Units

State	AU per 1000 feet of fence
Delaware	30.9
Maryland	9.4
New York	11.1
Pennsylvania	12.5
Virginia	10.4
West Virginia	5.0

A deeper dive:

- In the real-world pastures have different properties
  - Some <u>DO</u> have streams in/touching them
  - Some <u>DON'T</u> have streams
- Existing information creating the 17.6 figure accounts for this
- CAST is not that specific regarding pasture
  - If the population has access to a stream, then all the animals have access

The vote:

- AMT did **<u>NOT</u>** approve a change to the current default conversion to Animal Units.
  - Lacked time and information to produce a realistic and scientifically backed number

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The question of widths:

Exclusion fencing can be reported in multiple formats:

- Acres
- Linear feet
- Buffer width
- Animal units (AU) excluded

Reported data are converted to linear feet

- When acres or linear feet are reported and no width or AUs are reported default widths of 10 and 35ft are used to calculate the associated linear feet of exclusion fencing

Linear feet are converted to Animal Units Excluded

- 17.6 AU excluded/ 1000 LF fencing

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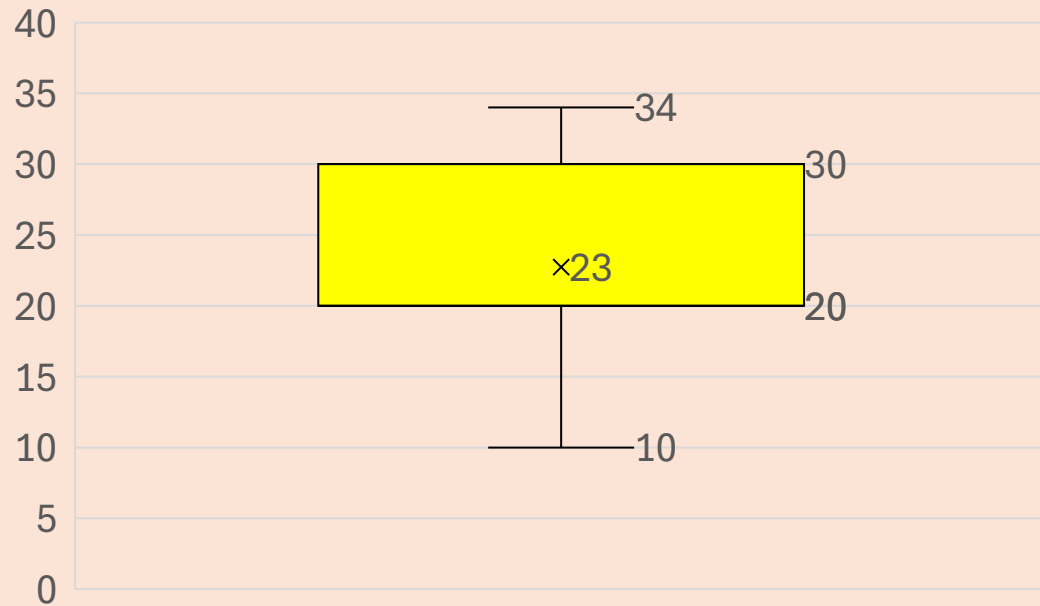- 17.6 AU excluded/ 1000 LF fencing

Buffer widths

Should the defaults be wider?

- Narrow = 10 feet
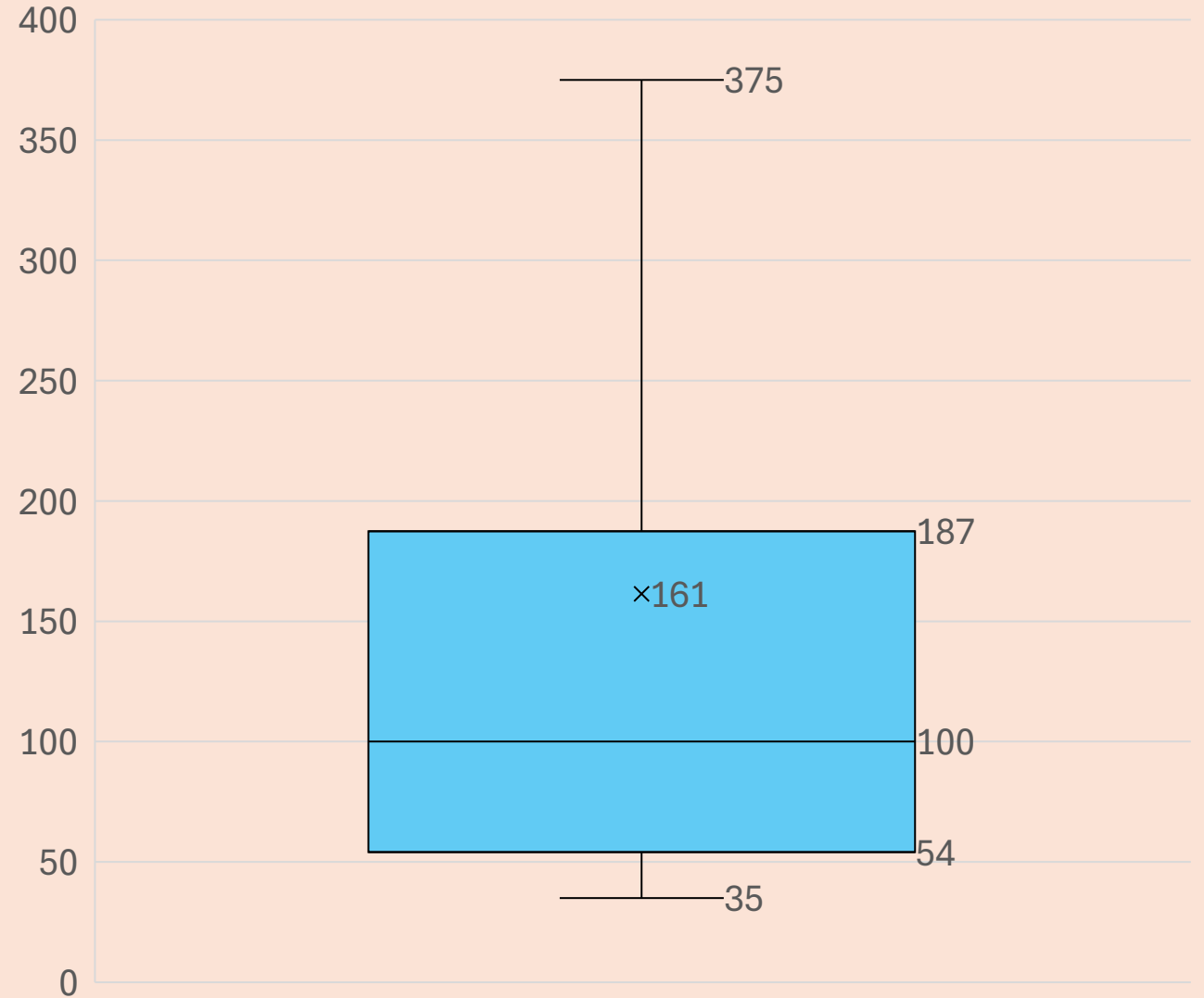- Regular = 35 feet

Buffer widths

- State provided data:
  - New York
  - Virginia

Narrow Buffers (currently 10 ft width)

Regular Buffers (currently 35 ft width)

Recommendation

- **<u>The AMT is recommending a change in the default buffer widths for calculations to 22.5 ft and 67.5 ft for narrow and regular buffers.</u>**

Questions?