

Layer Population Data

11/14/2025

August 2021 Agriculture Workgroup Meeting

- Attempt to utilize the trends in population with Phase 6
 - Phase 6 could not add in the full population. Solutions presented to the AgWG and WTWG were a change product.
 - Watershed wide fertilizer bucket was used for Phase 6, meaning new animal manure would push fertilizer to other states.
- The decision was that we needed a fresh start for Phase 7.

Why the focus on Layers now?

[CAST Issues Tracker](#) discussed new data sources and their incorporation.

Hillandale Farms CAFO

- Operates in Southern Pennsylvania
- 5 - 7.5 million layers
- No record in NASS
- No layer population is currently represented in CAST
 - No population = no nutrients available to credit BMPs

The AMT has agreed to transition from watershed wide fertilizer buckets to state buckets for fertilizer, so only PA will be affected.

If the data is available, the representation of populations and nutrients in CAST should be improved accordingly.

Currently Available Data on Layer Populations

Data sources currently available include:

Actual population data supplied by
Hillandale from 1995-2017

Hillandale site permit data for a range of
years from 2006-2024, provided by PA DEP



Methodology for how to reconcile population and permit data
and forecasting will be discussed at a future AMT meeting.

Questions for the AMT to Consider

Is it accurate to say that adding the Hillandale birds to the model will be a better representation of manure in PA?

Do any other states have operations they think are missing from the model that they would like to be represented for Phase 7?