

FINAL

Governor's Agricultural Best Management Practices Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Link:

<https://azdeq.zoom.us/j/86389010814?pwd=MxuboFB4PSC4vmWitSeAYrbB06RZEK.1>

Meeting ID: 863 8901 0814; Passcode: 615760

In-Person:

Arizona Rock Products Association 916 W Adams St # 1, Phoenix, AZ 85007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Ollerton, Chairman, Cotton Producer

William Thelander, Grain Producer

William Paul Heiden, Beef Cattle Feedlots

Kimberly Butler, County Air Quality Department or Agency

James Boyle Jr., Dairy Operations

Robert Boyle, Alfalfa Producer

Harold Payne, Citrus Producer

Alfredo Sotomayor, Swine Facilities

Dr. Joseph Blankinship, Soil Taxonomist of the College of Agriculture at University of Arizona

Dr. Dawn Gouge, Dean of the College of Agriculture at University of Arizona or Designee

Sheldon Jones, AZ Department of Agriculture Director or Designee

Jamilah McCoy, USDA NRCS Director or Designee

Daniel Czecholinski, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director or Designee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vacant, Vegetable Producer

Vacant, Poultry Facilities

OTHER MEETING ATTENDEES:

Matthew Poppen, Maricopa Association of Governments

Laura Ballard, Maricopa Association of Governments

Anita Lee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Lisa Beckham, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Douglas Bushey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Jennifer Williams, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Alina Batool, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Karina O'Connor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Anu Jain, Pinal County Air Quality Department

Bas Aja, AZ Cattle Feeder's Association

Jadee Rohner, AZ Cotton Growers Association
Nicole Clements, Maricopa County Farm Bureau
Eric Kaupanger, Eastern Research Group, Inc.
Brittany Bingold, Pivotal Policy Consulting
Ana Kennedy-Otto, Arizona Farm Bureau
Russell Van Leuven, AZ Department of Agriculture
Hether Krause, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Chelsey Fenton, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Kelly Poole, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Sean Sandy, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Steven Burr, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Lisa Tomczak, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Dennise Flanigan, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Carolina Akerlundh, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Lexi Ahmad, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Tara Ousley, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Introduction of Committee Members and Roll Call.

At 1:05 p.m., Chairman Ollerton called the meeting to order. Tara Ousley called roll call and a quorum was established.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

A. Review and approve March 2, 2026 meeting minutes.

Chairman Ollerton asked for a motion to approve the March 2, 2026 meeting minutes.

Robert Boyle moved for the Committee to approve the March 2, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Sheldon Jones and the motion passed.

III. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

There were no disclosures of conflicts of interest.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION:

A. Department of Agriculture Reporting Updates – Russell Van Leuven, Environmental Program Coordinator with the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) gave AZDA reporting updates. Mr. Van Leuven said that he wanted to provide an update from the March 2, 2026, Governor’s Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP) Committee meeting related to the AgBMP forms. Mr. Van Leuven said the AZDA Central Licensing Department has agreed to allow commercial farms within the Pinal County Particulate Matter (PM) nonattainment area to submit their AgBMP General Permit Record Forms to AZDA along with their AZDA’s Regulated Grower Permit Application. The Central Licensing Department told Mr. Van Leuven that they will require separate signatures on both sides of the form because each certification statement will be used to certify different information. Mr. Van Leuven said that a Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) or another type of intergovernmental agreement will be developed between the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the AZDA for the commercial farms to submit the AgBMP forms to the AZDA and for the AZDA to transmit the information to ADEQ. Mr. Van Leuven also explained that the regulated growers actually have 11 months after the Regulated Grower Permit expires on December 31st to submit a renewal application to AZDA. As a result, he suggested that the due date for the AgBMP form be revised to March 31 rather than December 31st.

- B. AgBMP General Permit Record Form – Bas Aja asked the Committee what is reasonable and appropriate for BMP records. Steven Burr said that different records may be appropriate for different BMPs. Russell Van Leuven said that the AZDA initially tried to shorten the AgBMP form so that it would fit on one page and could go on the back of the Regulated Grower Permit Application Form. However, with AZDA moving the Regulated Grower Permit Application Form to a digital platform, Mr. Van Leuven said that would no longer be a concern. Mr. Van Leuven also indicated that AZDA would redact confidential information from the Regulated Grower Permit Application prior to sharing the Regulated Grower Permit Application and AgBMP Permit Record Form with the ADEQ. Mr. Van Leuven said that the AZDA’s goal within the next year is to have the Regulated Grower Permit Application Form only sent out electronically and will no longer be sent out in the U.S. mail.
- C. Review and consider approval of amendments to the Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-2-610.03 Agricultural PM General Permit for Crop Operations; Pinal County PM Nonattainment Area – The AgBMP Committee discussed additional amendments to the rule language and Steven Burr read the suggested amendments aloud, they were:
- i. Amend the recordkeeping provisions in both the animal operator and commercial farm rules to state that if implementation of a BMP can be confirmed through visual inspection then records are not required to be kept for those BMPs.
 - ii. Amend both rules to provide that the default forms for keeping records of compliance with particular BMPs will be developed by ADEQ in consultation with the AgBMP Committee.
 - iii. In the commercial farm operator rule language that talks about the possible submission of the AgBMP General Permit Record Form to the AZDA, amend the rule to state that AZDA shall forward the completed AgBMP General Permit Record Form to ADEQ.
 - iv. In the language specifying the list of information that has to be included in the AgBMP General Permit Record Form, replace the words “at a minimum” with the word “only”.

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- v. Delete the word onsite in all three locations in both rules so it is clear that the operator or commercial farmer does not have to have the records at every site where they operate.
 - vi. Change the due date from January 1 back to March 31 for the submission of the AgBMP General Permit Record Form.
 - vii. Designate Chairman Ollerton to have the authority to approve the written version of the amended rules for submission to the Secretary of State.

Robert Boyle moved for the Committee to approve the additional amendments to the rule language, seconded by Sheldon Jones and the motion passed. Robert Boyle moved for the Committee to approve the adopted amendments to the A.A.C. R18-2-610.03 to require commercial farms within the West Pinal PM10 NAA to report annually to ADEQ on the BMPs selected for the following year and to certify the BMPs implemented during the preceding year, seconded by Sheldon Jones and the motion passed.

- D. Review and consider approval of amendments to A.A.C. R18-2-611.03 Agricultural PM General Permit for Animal Operations; Pinal County PM Nonattainment Area - Robert Boyle moved for the Committee to approve the additional amendments to the rule language, seconded by Sheldon Jones and the motion passed. Robert Boyle moved for the Committee to approve the adopted amendments to the A.A.C. R18-2-611.03 to require animal operations within the West Pinal PM10 NAA to report annually to ADEQ on the BMPs selected for the following year and to certify the BMPs implemented during the preceding year, seconded by Sheldon Jones and the motion passed.
- E. Discussion about the Three-Year Survey completed in 2025 pursuant to A.A.C. R18-2-610.03(D) and R18-2-611.03(I) and future reporting to ADEQ – Chairman Ollerton asked ADEQ what they do with historical data from the Three-Year Surveys. Chelsey Fenton, Air Quality Improvement Section Manager at ADEQ said that historical survey data was used by ADEQ to estimate the emission reductions that would result from the implementation of the AgBMPs. Ms. Fenton said that each BMP has different control efficiencies. For instance, some options are more effective than others at reducing PM₁₀ emissions. Therefore, in order to estimate emissions reductions associated with the West Pinal AgBMP rules, it was necessary to determine which BMP the commercial farmer would be most likely to implement for each operation and for each type of crop. When ADEQ developed the West Pinal PM₁₀ Moderate State Implementation Plan (SIP), the survey data was used to characterize the implementation of each BMP in order to quantify the anticipated impact of the West Pinal AgBMP rules on the PM₁₀ emission inventory for the area. Ms. Fenton explained that the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is currently the air quality planning agency for particulate matter SIPs within Pinal County. Therefore, the inclusion of survey data for use in any future SIP emission inventories and modeling for the area will be MAG's decision. Ms. Fenton said that

the revised reported requirements that the AgBMP Committee adopted today will serve multiple purposes: improve confidence in the implementation of the BMPs due to increased transparency, provide supporting evidence of effective implementation and enforcement of the identified control measures for potential use in future exceptional event demonstrations, provide more opportunity for compliance assistance to support the commercial farmers and animal operators, provide ADEQ with current data that can assist with data-driven decision making, and provide more accurate and complete information for future emissions inventories.

- F. Future meeting – Tara Ousley scheduled the next AgBMP Committee hybrid meeting on May 7, 2026, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- G. Committee vacancies – Chairman Ollerton said that he would like ADEQ to ask Duncan Farms if they are interested in serving on the AgBMP Committee in the vacant Vegetable Producer position. Chairman Ollerton said that he will ask Glenn Hickman for recommendations for the vacant Poultry Facilities position.

V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- A. This is the time for the public to comment. No members of the public spoke.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Ollerton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheldon Jones moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Robert Boyle and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.