

PFAS in Biosolids

Information for CT Agriculture

The Departments of Agriculture (DOAG) and Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) want to spread awareness about a family of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, that can be found in fertilizers derived from biosolids. DOAG and DEEP recommend that **farmers do NOT apply processed biosolid fertilizer to agricultural fields without first requesting PFAS test results** from their suppliers. If the biosolid product contains a combined PFAS concentration of 1.4 micrograms per kilogram [$\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, or parts per billion (ppb)] or more for five specific PFAS chemicals*, it is recommended that you do not apply that product in bulk to your fields.

Research has shown that plants growing in soil that is repeatedly amended with PFAS-contaminated biosolids can impact all parts of the plant – roots, shoots, and fruits. Consumption of crops containing PFAS has the potential to cause adverse health effects in people and livestock. Further, PFAS-contaminated biosolids can also pollute groundwater below the application site, causing a risk to the people and livestock that drink local groundwater. Note that in other states, PFAS has been found in milk from dairy cows that consumed PFAS-containing crops and drinking water.

If you have applied processed biosolid fertilizers in bulk to your fields in the past and are interested in further guidance on soil and drinking water testing, please contact the DEEP and/or DOAG representatives listed here:

AGENCY	STAFF	EMAIL	PHONE	GROUP
DEEP	Shannon Pociu	Shannon.Pociu@ct.gov	860.424.3546	Remediation Division
DOAG	Kate Nelson	Agr.commodities@ct.gov	860.713.2513	Agricultural Commodities Unit

*The five specific PFAS are: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA).

For more information on PFAS, see DEEP's webpage:
portal.ct.gov/DEEP-PFAS

For information on the CT Interagency PFAS Task Force and CT's PFAS Action Plan, see:
portal.ct.gov/DEEP-PFAS-Task-Force

For health and drinking water information on PFAS, see DPH's webpage:
portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/DWS/Per--and-Polyfluoroalkyl-Substances

