

MSU's PFAS Symposium: October 24th: Keynote – Problem Identification

Abstract:

Maine's PFAS Response Overview – Key Lessons After Four Years

This co-keynote presentation will highlight the approach the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) has undertaken in crafting strategies to assist PFAS-contaminated agricultural producers in the state. By working across agencies and with key external partners over the past four years, DACF has developed a response program that strives to support farms, identify PFAS contamination, pursue strategies to reduce or eliminate PFAS, and provide technical and financial assistance to retain farm viability. Through engagement with partners, particularly with impacted farmers themselves, DACF has continued to adapt and refine its response efforts. Despite the challenges that PFAS presents, DACF believes that PFAS does not always have to mean the end of a farm business. The keynote will briefly highlight key lessons and learnings to provide context, hope, and baseline information to others facing PFAS challenges. Presentations by DACF and other state representatives later in the conference will help expand upon these learnings.