

LPE Center News



March 2009

<http://www.extension.org/animal+manure+management>

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LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

Looking Forward to the April Webcast:

What to Expect When You're Inspected

Have you every wondered what the inspector is thinking during a review of an animal feeding operation?

During the April webcast, state and federal inspectors will explain what they do -- why they conduct inspections and typical problems they encounter. The discussion will also include several producers who have gone through the inspection process. You'll also hear tips on how producers can reduce anxiety and help make inspections a productive experience.



Date/Time: Friday, April 17, 2009, at 2:30 pm (EST)/1:30 pm (CST)/12:30 pm (MST)/11:30 am (PST).

How to Participate: On the day of the webcast, go to http://www.extension.org/pages/Live_Webcast_Information. First-time viewers should follow the steps at http://www.extension.org/pages/How_Do_I_Participate_in_a_Webcast? a few days before the webcast to ensure they will be able to access the virtual meeting room.

March Webcast

"What's in the Air? Monitoring Emissions from Open Lots "

February 20, 2009, at 2:30 pm (EST) [More...](#)

What's Going On In the LPE Learning Center?

Small Farms Team Creates New Online Resource for Horse Manure Management

LPELC Home page: <http://www.extension.org> and click on "Animal Manure Management."

Continuing Education Units are available through the Certified Crop Adviser program and American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists [More...](#)

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Horse owners, especially those near urban/suburban areas are becoming more conscious of the need to manage manure properly. The LPE Learning Center Small Farms team, led by Mike Westendorf of Rutgers University and Jactone Arogo of Virginia Tech, has developed a resource focused on the challenges and opportunities for horse owners. The team recently published a series of webpages in conjunction with HorseQuest, another eXtension community of practice that is focused on providing information for horse owners.



Some of the topics included in this web resource are in regards to: stall waste, barnyards, storing manure, spreading manure, off-farm disposal options, and pasture management. The articles include an overview of each topic, and links to additional information and resources. Find these articles here: http://www.extension.org/pages/Managing_Horse_Manure.

Two USDA Resources Updated Recently

2007 Census of Agriculture – The number of farms in the United States grew by 4 percent, or 300,000, between the 2002 and 2007 Census of Agriculture. Compared to all farms nationwide, these newer operations tend to have more diversified production, fewer acres, lower sales, and younger operators who also work off-farm. More than 36 percent are classified as residential/lifestyle farms, with another 21 percent as retirement farms.

There also continues to a trend toward more small farms and more very large farms, but with fewer mid-sized operations. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of farms with sales of less than \$2,500 increased by 74,000, and the number of farms with sales of more than \$500,000 grew by 46,000.

To explore the full results of the Ag Census, go to <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

Water Quality Information Center – This National Agriculture Library resource has updated its prototype database of online documents related to water and agriculture. Available free-of-charge, the public can now access 1,900 documents, including more than 140 manure management-related, research-backed articles in the “Nutrient Management” section.

Some of the topics included are: barriers to producers adopting sustainable manure practices, groundwater contamination, testing, the re-cycle system for hog waste, composting, manure storage, managing pet and wildlife waste, and manure management techniques related to various livestock and poultry species.

To explore this database, go to: <http://riley.nal.usda.gov/wqic/>. Click on “Manure Management” under the “Nutrient Management” listing to access the manure management articles.

Spotlight On...

Small Farms Conference and a Nitrogen Study

5th National Small Farms Conference Calling for Presentations and Posters – Held every three to four years, the National Small Farms Conference attracts professionals from land-grant universities, community-based organizations, and others who work with small farmers and ranchers. The next conference is September 15-17, 2009, in Springfield, Illinois. Professionals are invited to submit proposals for presentation and posters via an online form. **The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 13.** Presentations that address one or more of the following topic areas will be considered:

- Implementing Farm Bill provisions to assist small producers;
- Exploring alternative enterprises and marketing opportunities;
- Meeting the needs of small, beginning, underserved, and diverse producers;
- Building community support for small producers;
- Developing sustainable farming systems;
- Managing the farm business;
- Meeting energy needs. [More...](#)

Study Reveals that Less Nitrogen May Be More Profitable – Published in the February 2009 issue of *Agricultural Research*, an USDA Agricultural Research Service study reveals that less nitrogen application may

actually be more profitable in the long-term. The study was done on irrigated cropping systems in Colorado with high levels of nitrate due to heavy application of nitrogen fertilizer and the prevalence of shallow-rooted crops, and was conducted in from 1998-2008.

In a study with onions, it was shown the crop used only 12-15 percent of the nitrogen fertilizer applied to the crop. The following year, corn was planted and recovered 24 percent of the fertilizer that had been applied to the onion crop. Next, the scientists grew alfalfa on the land for five years, followed by a watermelon crop and then corn. The first year of corn, an unfertilized plot yield 250 bushels per acre. A plot fertilized with 250 pounds of nitrogen per acre yielded 260 bushels. These results show that not only is corn a good residual nitrogen scavenger crop when in rotation with a shallow-rooted crop, but also that farmers could benefit economically from reduced nitrogen fertilizer rates. [More...](#)



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