

# LPE Center News



January 2010

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

LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

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### Looking Forward to the February Webcast:

## Mitigating Air Quality Issues Using Vegetative Environmental Buffers

Farmers have used shelterbelts and windbreaks to enhance farmstead aesthetics for many years, but only recently have they been utilized for the benefits provided to neighboring residents and communities. As interest in mitigating air emissions grows, vegetative environmental buffers (VEB) will receive even more attention. The February webcast will include the latest information on the effectiveness and value of VEBs, especially as an approach to managing air emissions from animal production facilities.



**Speakers:** John Tyndall (Iowa State University) and Dick Nicolai (South Dakota State University).

**Date/Time:** Friday, February 26, 2010 [Note adjusted week], 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](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?](http://www.extension.org/pages/How_Do_I_Participate_in_a_Webcast?) a few days before the webcast to ensure access to the virtual meeting room.

### January Webcast "Coupling Manure and Cover Crops"

January 15, 2010, at 2:30 pm (EDT)  
[More...](#)

What's Going On In the LPE Learning Center?

## FAQs Expanded to Answer Common Questions

The LPE Learning Center teams have been hard at work updating and increasing the database of frequently asked questions (FAQs). These FAQs represent the most common questions related to animal agriculture and its environmental impacts.

The FAQs are available by going to the LPELC home page at: <http://www.extension.org/animal+manure+management>, and looking under "Answers From Our Experts." You can also use the search box to find FAQs related to your interests. There are over 240 questions published, with many more in development.

What can you do if you don't find an FAQ that helps answer your question? Every page on the LPE Learning Center website also includes an "Ask an Expert" feature. There are currently 64 experts representing 38 states willing to answer questions. To access the ask-an-expert feature, go to any page on the LPELC website (except the home page) and look for the "Have a question?" box to the right of the page title.

**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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## New Publications & Newsletters Released

### USDA State Agricultural Statistics Fact Sheets

Curious about the state of agriculture in your state or county? The USDA Economic Research Service has updated the State Fact Sheets to include 2008 data.

State Fact Sheets provide information on population, employment, income, farm characteristics, farm financial indicators, and top commodities, exports, and counties for each state in the United States. This resource is available through an interactive map at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts>.

### Nutrient Management Newsletters

- National Hog Farmer magazine publishes an e-newsletter "Nutrient Management". The latest issue: [http://enews.penton.com/enews/nationalhogfarmer/nutrientmanagement/2009\\_12\\_14\\_nutrient\\_management/display](http://enews.penton.com/enews/nationalhogfarmer/nutrientmanagement/2009_12_14_nutrient_management/display)
- North Dakota State University Nutrient Management. The inaugural issue includes

information on composting, winter feeding areas, distillers grains, and more! <http://www.ndsu.edu/nm>

- Professional Nutrient Applicators of Wisconsin <http://www.wimanuremgt.org/spreaderlog/index.cfm>

### Texas A&M Air Quality Terminology Publication

Ever wondered what "non-attainment area" or "fugitive emission" meant? These and many more air quality terms are defined in a new publication, "Air Quality Terminology". It is available by searching for "L-5516" at: <https://agrillifebookstore.org/>.

### Greenhouse Gases and Animal Agriculture Conference Call for Papers

Banff, Alberta, Canada will be the site of an international conference on the latest scientific research related to greenhouse gases and animal agriculture. Past conferences have been held in Switzerland, Japan, and New Zealand. Peer reviewed abstracts need to be submitted by July 1, 2010. <http://www.ggae2010.org/>

### Spotlight On...

## Don't Blame Cows for Climate Change

Despite oft-repeated claims, it is simply not true that consuming less meat and dairy products will help stop climate change, says a University of California authority on farming and greenhouse gases.

UC Davis Associate Professor and Air Quality Specialist Frank Mitloehner says that McCartney and the chair of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ignored science when they launched a European campaign called "Less Meat = Less Heat."

McCartney and others, such as the promoters of "meatless Mondays," seem to be well-intentioned but not well-schooled in the complex relationships among human activities, animal digestion, food production and atmospheric chemistry, says Mitloehner.

"Smarter animal farming, not less farming, will equal less heat," he said. "Producing less meat and milk will only mean more hunger in poor countries."

Mitloehner traces much of the public confusion over meat and milk's role in climate change to two sentences in a 2006 United Nations report, titled "Livestock's Long Shadow." Printed only in the report's executive summary and nowhere in the body of the report, the sentences read: "The livestock sector is a major player, responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions measured in (carbon dioxide equivalents). This is a higher share than transport."

These statements are not accurate, yet their wide distribution through news media have put us on the wrong path toward solutions, Mitloehner says. "We certainly can reduce our greenhouse-gas production, but not by consuming less meat and milk. Rather, in developed countries, we should focus on cutting our use of oil and coal for electricity, heating and vehicle fuels."

Mitloehner said leading authorities agree that, in the U.S., raising cattle and pigs for food accounts for about 3% of all greenhouse gas emissions, while transportation creates an estimated 26 %.

Read the rest of the article at

<http://news.ucanr.org/newsstorymain.cfm?story=1254>.

*Editor's note: Dr. Mitloehner was one of the speakers for the May, 2009 webcast presentation on "Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Animal Agriculture" archived at:*

[http://www.extension.org/pages/Greenhouse\\_Gas\\_Emissions\\_from\\_Animal\\_Agriculture](http://www.extension.org/pages/Greenhouse_Gas_Emissions_from_Animal_Agriculture).



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