

# LPE Center News



January 2009

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

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**January Webcast**  
 "Targeted Feeding Strategies to Reduce Air Emissions from Animal Manure"  
 January 16, 2009, at 2:30 pm (EST) [More...](#)

**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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## LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

### Looking Forward to the February Webcast:

## Nitrogen Conservation in Animal Housing

How can you conserve more of the nitrogen value from your cattle feedlot or confinement facility? Learn more about manure management strategies to conserve nitrogen for beneficial reuse.

This webcast will feature presentations regarding nitrogen conservation in open feedlots and confined animal housing units, as well as feeding strategies that allow for more nitrogen to be retained in stored manure. More on this webcast is at:

<http://pubwiki.extension.org/mediawiki/files/c/cd/09febflyer.pdf>



**Speakers:** Wendy Powers of Michigan State University and Galen Erickson of the University of Nebraska

**Date/Time:** Friday, February 20, 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](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 they will be able to access the virtual meeting room.

## What's Going On In the LPE Learning Center?

## 2009 Webcast Schedule Ready!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our webcast survey and offered suggestions for topics. The information from the survey was used to select topics for the 2009 webcast schedule.

The schedule will alternate air quality topics (odd-numbered months) with water quality topics (even-numbered months). As information is finalized it will be posted at:

[http://www.extension.org/pages/Upcoming\\_Webcasts](http://www.extension.org/pages/Upcoming_Webcasts). A few of the topics coming this year include:

- Composting on small farms,
- Nitrogen conservation,
- Particulate matter (dust) from open lots,
- Preparing for inspections, and more.

If you miss one of the live webcasts, you can always view the recordings by visiting:

[http://www.extension.org/pages/Archived\\_Webcasts%2C\\_Livestock\\_and\\_Poultry\\_Environmental\\_Learning\\_Center](http://www.extension.org/pages/Archived_Webcasts%2C_Livestock_and_Poultry_Environmental_Learning_Center).

## USDA Announces Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets

A new office charged with the development of technical guidelines and science-based methods to assess environmental service benefits has been created within USDA. The Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets (OESM) efforts will promote markets for ecosystem services, including carbon trading, to mitigate climate change.

Agriculture producers provide many ecosystem services, such as clean water and air, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and scenic landscapes. Landowners are not generally compensated for these public benefits. Market-based approaches to conservation are proven to achieve environmental goals and sustain landscapes. Without financial incentives, these ecosystem services may be lost as privately-owned lands are sold or converted to development.

OESM will provide administrative and technical assistance in developing the uniform guidelines and tools to create and expand markets for ecosystem services. As directed by

Photo  
Courtesy  
of USDA  
NRCS



the authorizing legislation, the first ecosystem services to be examined will be carbon sequestration.

*In May of 2008, the LPE Learning Center hosted a live webcast on "Market Based Conservation." The archived presentation is available at:*

[http://www.extension.org/pages/Market\\_Based\\_Consevation\\_Webcast](http://www.extension.org/pages/Market_Based_Consevation_Webcast). A web page on the same topic is at: [http://www.extension.org/pages/Market\\_Based\\_Consevation](http://www.extension.org/pages/Market_Based_Consevation).

### Spotlight On...

## Study Shows Benefit of Using Poultry Litter as Fertilizer

Research conducted in central Texas provides a scientific basis in support of using poultry litter as an economical, environmentally friendly alternative to commercial fertilizer.

The study, led by Daren Harmel of the USDA Agricultural Research Service, collected and analyzed data on environmental quality, land management, crop yield, crop price, and fertilizer cost from six field sites since 2000. Traditional commercial (inorganic) fertilizer was compared with several hybrid litter and commercial nitrogen fertilizers.

Few differences were seen in corn and wheat yields among the various litter and inorganic fertilizer combinations. However, total fertilizer costs increased significantly as litter application rates increased and commercial fertilizer rates decreased – despite dramatic cost increases for commercial fertilizer during the time of the study. The greatest average annual profits were determined to be at the 1 and 2 tons per acre litter rates. This litter rate was also found to be the most environmentally beneficial rate.

"I was pleased, but a little surprised, that this research showed that the economically optimal range of litter rates coincides with the environmentally optimal rate," Harmel said. "These results also support a win-win scenario for efficient litter utilization on a broader scale. With proper

A USDA-ARS research study in central Texas concludes that poultry litter is both agriculturally economical and environmentally beneficial.



off-site litter application rates, farmers and ranchers gain a cost-effective fertilizer alternative, the public saves remediation and water treatment costs, and the poultry industry enhances its public perception, avoids litigation, and increases its revenue potential by selling litter."

This ongoing study is a cooperative effort between USDA-ARS, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and Texas AgriLIFE Extension. To view more information about the study, including publications, go to:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/spa/harmel-poultry>.



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