



In this issue:

- *Change in Webcast Schedule: November Will Focus on Nutrient Use Efficiency..... 1*
- *Technology Summaries for Mitigating Air Emissions Now Available..... 1*
- *Fact Sheet Highlights Ag Chemicals in the Environment.....2*
- *Livestock Helps Rangelands Recover from Fire.....2*
- *Search Ag Census Data by Watershed.....2*



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...](#)

LPE Coordinator:
Jill Heemstra
jheemstra@unl.edu

Webcast Schedule Has Changed! November Will Focus On:

Snap-shot Assessment of Nutrient Use Efficiency

Escalating costs and environmental accountability have motivated dairy farms to improve nutrient use efficiency (NUE). How can NUE be determined and monitored easily on dairy farms? This webcast will describe and demonstrate the usefulness of using rapid assessment methods to provide snap-shot assessments of feed, fertilizer, and manure use on dairy farms. [More...](#)

Speaker: Dr. Mark Powell, USDA ARS

Date/Time: Friday, November 20, 2009, at 2:30 pm (EST)/1:30 (CST)/12:30 (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 access to the virtual meeting room.

December Webcast:
Will focus on the recently finalized Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule. Date and speakers will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

What's Going On In the LPE Learning Center?

Technology Summaries for Mitigating Air Emissions Now Available

The newest addition to the LPE Learning Center website is a series of short summaries from the Iowa State University's 2008 "Mitigating Air Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations" conference.

The summaries are sorted by species, use area, technology type, and pollutant mitigated. Each page includes a summary, applicability, limitations, cost, and contact information for the author. To browse the summaries, go to:

[Mitigating Air Emissions from Animal Manure: Summaries of Innovative Technologies](#)

LPELC Community Up and Running!

A new professional network at <http://animalag.ning.com> is live. This community is meant to be a place where for those involved in environmental decision-making on livestock and poultry farms can connect, collaborate, discuss and share. You can start or participate in discussions, upload photos or videos, create groups, publicize events, or share newsworthy items in the blog. We hope to see you there!

Fact Sheet Highlights Ag Chemicals in the Environment

A U.S. Geological Survey fact sheet that highlights findings in a series of articles published in the *Journal of Environmental Quality* on agricultural chemicals in the environment is now available.

The USGS information summarizes investigations in five agricultural areas across the U.S., providing a watershed approach to understanding the movement of chemicals and water through agricultural lands. The five watersheds represent important agricultural practices in different environmental and hydrologic settings; therefore, findings are relevant to agricultural areas throughout much of the nation.

Approximately 40% of the land in the U.S. is used for agriculture. Often, natural hydrologic processes are modified toward optimizing agricultural production, such as in areas of extensive tile drains or irrigation, which can have unintended environmental impacts on



water quantity and quality. Understanding the movement of water and chemicals in streams, ground water, and the atmosphere is critically important in evaluating and tracking effects of agricultural practices on water quantity and quality.

Detailed information on the agricultural studies can be accessed at http://in.water.usgs.gov/NAWQA_ACT/.

Spotlight On...

Livestock Helps Rangelands Recover from Fire

A 14-year study by Agricultural Research Service scientists in Oregon found that rangelands that have been grazed by cattle recover from fires more effectively than rangelands that have been protected from livestock.

Much of the rangeland in the western United States is threatened by the spread of cheatgrass and medusahead, invasive annual grasses that fuel wildfires and readily infest landscapes after fires. These rangelands historically were burned by wildfires every 50 to 100 years, but over the past century, these fires have been suppressed by humans. This suppression allowed plant litter to accumulate, but when cattle were introduced to the region, their grazing helped keep litter accumulation in check.

Studies compared how native plants on grazed and ungrazed sagebrush rangelands free of cheatgrass recovered from fires. The scientists conducted a controlled burn on all the sites in 1993, and then measured vegetation cover and density and biomass production in 2005, 2006, and 2007. They found cheatgrass had infested the ungrazed sites, leaving

these areas even more vulnerable to future fires. However, cheatgrass did not become problematic on the sites that had been grazed where native bunchgrass cover was almost twice as dense. The team concluded that the litter in the ungrazed sites fueled hotter fires that killed off much of the perennial vegetation, which allowed quick-growing invasive annuals to become established.

Read the entire article at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2009/090930.htm>.

Search Ag Census Data By Watershed

The results of the U.S. Ag Census are now available by watershed. Go to http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Watersheds/ to get started.



This material is based upon work supported by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2005-51130-03315. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or

recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.