

# LPE Center News



February 2009

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

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## LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

### Looking Forward to the March Webcast:

## Ammonia and Particulate Emissions on the High Plains

**The date has changed!** The recent ruling on reporting requirements for air emissions from livestock operations has only expanded the need for reliable information on these emissions. Emissions of ammonia and particulates are not well understood, especially when they are coming from outdoor cattle pens common to the High Plains. Join us as researchers at Texas AgriLife Extension and Kansas State University highlight findings from a joint project designed to provide knowledge and direction where little previously existed.

**Date/Time:** Friday, March 27, 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.

**February Webcast**  
 "Nitrogen Conservation in Animal Housing"  
 February 20, 2009, at 2:30 pm (EST) [More...](#)

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

## LPE Website Features Resources on Manure Value and Economics

The interest level in utilizing manure for plant nutrients and determining its value compared to inorganic fertilizer increased along with the prices of farm inputs in 2009. Some of the best resources available on the economics of this and many more aspects of manure management can be found in the "Manure Value and Economics" section on the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center website, [www.extension.org/pages/Manure\\_Value\\_and\\_Economics\\_Articles](http://www.extension.org/pages/Manure_Value_and_Economics_Articles).

In addition to hosting three webcast presentations, the team has also developed webpages on the costs of manure application and transport, setting up business arrangements to transfer manure off-farm, manure's value as an energy source, and more. The site also provides access to several research summaries that include economic analysis of manure treatment technologies.

The leadership for this team is provided by John Lawrence of Iowa State University and Joshua Payne of Oklahoma State. Team members represent several different land-grant universities and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The team is currently working on information related to the economics of anaerobic digesters, which is planned for release in February 2009.

**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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## Reports Give Background on EPA's EPCRA Final Ruling

Two Congressional Research Service reports from September 2008 have received much publicity recently due to the Environmental Protection Agency's final ruling that mandates large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to report emissions under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

**“Air Quality Issues and Animal Agriculture: A Primer,”** discusses the history of regulating emissions in the animal agricultural industry, noting that regulating animal agriculture has been inconsistent, fragmented, and controversial due to a lack of research-based emission measurements. Some large CAFOs were subject to the Clean Air Act; other operations fell under the jurisdiction of EPCRA or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or the Superfund law). In 2005, the EPA negotiated the Air Compliance Agreement with segments of the animal agriculture industry, including pork and egg production, to produce air quality monitoring data on CAFO emissions to be used as the basis for determining emission thresholds.

To read the entire report, go to [www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/crs/RL32948.pdf](http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/crs/RL32948.pdf).

**“Animal Waste and Hazardous Substances: Current Laws and Legislative Issues,”** further discusses the need for scientific measurements of emissions from CAFOs in order to enforce CERCLA and EPCRA. Generally, there were misinterpretations of certain key terms defining applicability of reporting requirements for emissions, which have caused confusion with at least two civil suit cases and three cases involving Superfund cleanup liability. Legislation had been introduced to Congress that would exempt animal manure from CERCLA reporting requirements. This controversial legislation led to the EPA proposing a rule in December 2007 that would have exempted emissions from animal manure from both CERCLA and EPCRA reporting requirements.

To read the entire report, go to [www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/crs/RL33691.pdf](http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/crs/RL33691.pdf).

### Spotlight On...

## For Your Information: Upcoming Events and Resources of Interest

**2009 Midwest Manure Summit** – *Mark your calendars for March 24-25 at Lambeau Stadium in Green Bay, Wisconsin.* Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, this conference is for agricultural producers and agribusinesses interested in manure handling and storage. Speakers will cover: technology to control phosphorus composition in manure; farm-scale composting; air emission laws; manure biosecurity; manure bartering; manure safety and transportation; economics of sand handling; odor control; conversion of biosolids into building materials; sustainable manure handling; biogas digesters and energy; carbon credits; manure incineration for energy; bioenergy and GIS; and lessons from manure digesters in Europe. [More...](#)

**2009 Conservation Innovation Grants** – Applications are due March 2, 2009. The USDA is allocating \$20 million for this competitive grant program offering cost-share to the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies within agricultural production. This program will fund projects that will lead the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches such as market-based systems into Natural Resource Conservation Service references or to the private sector. This program is not for projects targeting on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. [More...](#)

**“Manure duJour” Webcast Series** – Presented by Penn State's Agriculture and Environment Center, this series began in January and continues through mid-April 2009. Although the topics emphasize issues in the Chesapeake Bay area, much of the information is applicable over a wider area. Upcoming webcast seminars for February focus on water quality and manure storage and treatment, land application, and stream protection. In March, seminars will switch to an air quality focus. Archived webcasts are also available. [More...](#)

**Water Quality Credit Trading Workshop** – *Plan to attend on March 4-5, 2009, at Cheasapeake College in Wye Mills, Maryland.* This conference is geared toward agricultural producers and advisors, wastewater utilities, and power companies. Co-sponsored by the Conservation Technology Information Center, the workshop will focus on education about Maryland's newly developed nonpoint-source trading program. [More...](#)



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.