



## Livestock & Poultry Environmental Learning Center News

Connecting Experts With Those Advising Animal Producers

September 2011

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

### Looking Forward to the October Webcast

#### Proper Lagoon Closure

When confined animal facilities cease operation, earthen manure storage and treatment structures must be closed properly to ensure that they pose little risk to the environment. Surface water and groundwater must be protected from manure and wastewater during and after closure of lagoons, settling basins and waste storage ponds. **October 21, 2011**. Speakers are: Karl Vandevender, University of Arkansas; Thomas Bass, Montana State University; Catherine Nash, USDA NRCS; Jeremy Seiger, USA EPA Region 6; Terry Medley, KS Dept of Health and the Environment; and Saqib Mukhtar, Texas AgriLife Extension. Look for the flyer to be posted soon at: [Upcoming Webcasts](#). The presentation will start at 2:30 pm (eastern); 1:30 pm (central); 12:30 pm (mountain); 11:30 am (pacific).

#### September Webcast

The September 16, 2011 webcast will highlight selected findings from the National Air Emissions Monitoring Study (NAEMS) and feature Drs. Al Heber and Erin Cortus and will be moderated by Dr. Rick Stowell. The webcast will start at 2:30 pm (eastern). [More...](#)

### What Is Going On In the LPE Learning Center?

#### Your Best Guess



**Your Best Guess.** Check out this [photo](#), read the clues, and identify the animal who left it behind. Post your guess in the comments section or email your guess to Jill. We will recognize the winners in next month's newsletter. The [EnvAgLeaders Facebook page](#) is part of the [beginning farmer](#) team within the LPELC. If you have any photos or videos that would make a good "Best Guess" post, email them to Jill. Thank you to Tiffany Marx from Oregon who sent the September photo. [More...](#)

**August Winner.** Last month's "best guess" resulted in many good submissions (as well as ideas for future posts). We had one correct guess—from Mark Risse at the University of Georgia. Mark correctly identified the change in the grass shown in this [short video](#) was the result of a chicken tractor being moved around that area.

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## National Resources

### Poultry Litter Value, Mississippi River Nitrates, Nitrogen Footprint, Paddock Size

**Poultry Litter Value.** Over the years, poultry litter has been used for composting, pelletizing, and converting to electricity, steam and biogas; however, the most common use has been land application. A survey in Georgia gathered responses from 165 farmers on many aspects of their poultry litter use including price paid, application rate, inorganic fertilizer use and [more...](#)



**Mississippi River Nitrates.** Despite efforts to reduce nitrate levels in the Mississippi River Basin, concentrations and transport at eight major study sites did not consistently decline from 1980-2008. These results are based on a new scientific model developed by the USGS that takes into account variation in river flows in order to gain an accurate understanding of long term trends. [More...](#)

**Nitrogen Footprint.** A new report from USDA's Economic Research Service is titled "Reducing agriculture's nitrogen footprint: Are new policy approaches needed?" Agriculture is the single largest source of nitrogen compounds that can help or harm ecosystems. A range of policy instruments could be used to address different facets of nitrogen management and specific environmental problems. [More...](#)

**Paddock Size.** A new video from the eOrganic community in eXtension discusses how to calculate paddock size for grazing dairy operations. [More...](#)

## Spotlight On:

### Antibiotic Resistance, Ammonia Capture, Tannins & Ammonia, Feedlot Ammonia



**Antibiotic Resistance.** An article published in the journal, "Environmental Health Perspectives", found that poultry farms which transitioned to organic production had less antibiotic-resistant *Enterococcus* bacteria than conventional farms. [More...](#)

**Ammonia Capture.** Though it may not sound very glamorous, a new method of extracting ammonium from liquid animal manure could be exciting news for both confined animal operations and environmental groups, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service engineer. [More...](#)

**Tannins & Ammonia.** As concerns about air pollution from large dairies and other concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) continue to mount, scientists are reporting a practice that could cut emissions of an exceptionally abundant agricultural gas—ammonia—by up to 30%. [More...](#)

**Feedlot Ammonia.** Temperature and diet play large role in ammonia emissions from feedlots. More than 50% of the protein-nitrogen fed to beef cattle can escape annually to the atmosphere as ammonia gas, according to a USDA-led study of two Texas cattle feedyards, and emissions increase when cattle diets contain wet distillers grains, a byproduct of corn-ethanol production. [More...](#)

For even more news from the world of manure management, check out the LPELC [newsroom](#)

## Events and Announcements

### National Water Conference, FPPC Summit, Vermicomposting, Mortality Management

**National Water Conference.** The Land Grant and Sea Grant National Water Quality Conference has announced a call for symposia and workshops (due September 15, 2011) and presentations and posters (due January 2, 2012). [More...](#)

**FPPC Summit.** Building on a successful technology exchange last year, FPPC will focus on nutrients and water quality by highlighting the process of taking pilot projects to commercial success. This Technology Summit will be held in Saint Petersburg Beach, Florida starting at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. [More...](#)

**Vermicomposting.** NCSU's 12<sup>th</sup> Vermiculture Conference will be held on October 10-11, 2011 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. [More...](#)

**Water Standards Academy.** The US Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring a water quality standards academy December 12-16, 2011 in Arlington, VA. This course is designed as an introductory course for those with limited experience with water quality standards. [More...](#)

**Mortality Management.** Save the date for the 4th International Symposium on Managing Animal Mortality, Products, By Products, and Associated Health Risk: Connecting Research, Regulations, and Response. May 21-24, 2012 Dearborn, MI. [More...](#)

Have your state/regional/national event added to our [calendar of events](#). Send them to Jill at [jheemstra@unl.edu](mailto:jheemstra@unl.edu).



## Hot Topics

### Manure and Animal Ag In the News

**School Reaction.** Over-reaction? Health concerns at middle school after chicken poo spread on grounds [More...](#)

**Panda Poo.** Panda poop could be a treasure trove for biofuels [More...](#)

**Chesapeake Bay.** The “dead zone” in the Chesapeake Bay is on track to be one of the largest ever [More...](#)

The LPE Learning Center is a community of practice within the National eXtension Initiative | Room 6 ACB | Lincoln | NE | 68583-0918

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