

LPE Center News



December, 2008

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

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LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

Looking Forward to the January Webcast:

Targeted Feeding Strategies to Reduce Air Emissions from Animal Manure



How can targeted feeding strategies reduce air emissions from animal manure? To learn more about this emerging topic, join the first webcast of the new year. This presentation will include speakers with expertise in feeding beef cattle, dairy cattle, and swine for reduced environmental impact. More information is available at <http://pubwiki.extension.org/mediawiki/files/8/8d/09janflyer.pdf>.

Speakers: Andy Cole, USDA ARS (beef cattle), Mark Hanigan, Virginia Tech (dairy cattle), Alex Hristov, Pennsylvania State University (dairy cattle), and Scott Carter, Oklahoma State University (swine).

Date/Time: Friday, January 16, 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. 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 they will be able to access the virtual meeting room.

December Webcast "Manure Management Planner Software"

December 19, 2008, at
2:30 pm (EST) [More...](#)

What's Going On In the LPE Learning Center?

Webcasts Provide Continuing Education Units

Do you participate in one (or more) programs that require continuing education? If so, the LPELC webcast series may help fulfill some of your requirements.

Certified Crop Advisers: If you participate in a live webcast, enter your name, email address, and CCA# in the "chat" box. The LPELC team will submit the attendance list to the American Society of Agronomy. Archived webcasts are also eligible for continuing education units (CEUs). Watch the recorded presentation, click on the quiz link, complete the quiz satisfactorily, and you will receive your credits.

American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS): Participate in a live webcast or view a recorded presentation, and self-report your attendance to ARPAS headquarters at <http://www.arpas.org>.

Other Professionals: Other professionals, such as professional engineers or technical service providers need to work through their state program coordinators to determine whether each webcast is eligible for CEUs. Log in to a live webcast with your actual first and last name (to verify your listing on the electronic attendance list). After the program is finished, request a copy of the attendance list and webcast flyer from the LPELC Project Manager Jill Heemstra, jheemstra@unl.edu, and submit the information to your state program for their evaluation.

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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Farm Energy Resources Available

Even though energy prices have stabilized, the volatile prices of 2008 have raised everyone's awareness of energy use and conservation. Farm producers interested in reducing energy use or utilizing renewable energy can find several useful resources from the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Network. Two of these are:

- **Farm Energy Calculators**, available at http://attra.ncat.org/energy_calculators.html, help producers determine ways to reduce energy use. There are a variety of self-assessments, as well as calculators for animal housing, tillage, and nitrogen.
- The **Farm Energy Resources Search Utility** allows producers to search for renewable energy resource available in their state. Technology providers and businesses can also use a self-listing form to be included on the resource list. Clicking on a state will link you to information on anaerobic digesters, biodiesel, energy efficiency, ethanol, funding, solar, and wind. This resource is located at located at: http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/farm_energy/search.php,

EPA Ag Compliance Assistance Center

Do you have a question about the new CAFO regulations? Are you looking for regulatory information written in a way you can understand? Look no further than the EPA Ag Compliance Assistance Center.

The Ag Center was established to provide the agricultural community with information on complying with environmental regulations. The Ag Center website, <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture>, includes a toll-free phone number, links to "hot" topics, publications, a newsroom, and links to resources created by universities and organizations. Visitors can also subscribe to a listserv and browse a list of topics.

The EPA Ag Center was a founding partner in the LPE Learning Center, and Ag Center staff member Carol Galloway leads the development of regulation-related information on the LPE website.

Spotlight On...

Prairie Strips Have Potential to Keep Soil and Nutrients in the Field

Soil conservation practices that keep water (and therefore soil and nutrients) from running off a field are commonplace for stewardship-minded producers. Preliminary research data from an Iowa project shows that they may soon have another tool to manage their land.

The project involves planting 10 percent or 20 percent of the land area to perennial prairie strips and comparing them with areas without the prairie strips. The strips are placed at critical points in the landscape, either at the bottom or midway up the slope.

Year 2008 marked the first full year of data collection with researchers measuring runoff volume, quality and depth of groundwater, amount of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus leaving the watershed, and animal, plant and insect biodiversity.

In the spring of 2008, there were 10 precipitation events that included measurable soil loss. The average loss from areas without the prairie strips was 8.5 tons per acre. The areas with prairie plantings averaged only a .5 ton-per-acre loss.

Measurements on the carbon storage taking place in the prairie strips will begin in 2010.

The project is funded by the Leopold Center, Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences,



National Science Foundation, and Iowa Department of Land Stewardship. A video about the project is located at http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/eco_files/ground.html.



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.