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March 2007

## LPE Center News, March 2007

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# LPE Center News



March, 2007

Connecting Experts With Those Advising Producers

<http://lpe.unl.edu>

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LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

## Lessons Learned from the Search for Environmentally Superior Technologies is April's Webcast Topic

Is there a better way? To answer that question, a group of North Carolina researchers was charged with a large collaborative project, commonly referred to as the Smithfield Agreement. The goal of the project was to identify and evaluate technologies that held promise to be environmentally superior to the standard lagoon and sprayfield system for North Carolina hog farms. Technologies that met the environmental performance criteria were further evaluated for economic feasibility. [More...](#)



The speaker for this seminar is Dr. Mike Williams, professor and coordinator of waste management programs at North Carolina State University. He will give a historical overview of the project, discuss the findings and recommendations, and provide an update on current work with emphasis on the economics of the systems.

*Date/Time:* Friday, April 20, 2007 at 2:30 pm Eastern, 1:30 pm Central, 12:30 pm Mountain, and 11:30 am Pacific.

*How to Attend:* Go to <http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast2.html> for directions.

What's Going On in the LPE Learning Center?

**March 16, 2007  
Webcast Reminder**

"N Availability from Organic Sources"

[More information](#)

## Continuing Education Units (CEUs) Now Online

Instructions for Certified Crop Advisers (CCA) and members of the American Registry of Professional Animals Scientists (ARPAS) who wish to receive continuing education units for LPE Learning Center webcasts are now available at <http://lpe.unl.edu/ceu.html>. A total of four CEUs have already been approved for each group and future LPE Learning Center webcasts are being considered for additional CEU opportunities. This page will be updated each time a new CEU opportunity becomes available.

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**LPE Coordinator:**  
Jill Heemstra  
[jheemstra@unl.edu](mailto:jheemstra@unl.edu)

## Alternative Technologies Topic Coming Soon

The LPE Learning Center alternative technologies team will be posting resources on the LPE Learning Center website in mid-April. The team is evaluating resources related to manure treatment and uses beyond standard land application of raw manure, including composting and solids separation, as well as others. They are also developing a webcast series, starting in April and resuming in the Fall of 2007, and will build a list of frequently asked questions. If you have resources to suggest for this site or a question to include in the FAQ database, please contact Jill Heemstra.

## LPES Curriculum Includes Resources for Large and Small Farms

How do I feed pigs to reduce nutrient excretion? How do I manage mortalities to minimize environmental impact? What should I consider before building livestock or poultry facilities? The answers to these questions and many more can be found in the 26 lessons of the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship (LPES) Curriculum.

The [LPES Curriculum](#) was a national effort to develop a series of lessons that could be used by those involved in producer education or certification programs. It contains 26 lessons divided into six modules. Each lesson can be used alone or with other lessons to customize a learning experience that fits the needs of the educator or producer.

In addition to the lessons, the curriculum includes several other resources:

For the small producer there are a series of aptly-titled "[Small Farms Fact Sheets](#)". The topics range from nutrient management, fencing and watering, to grazing. Two of the fact sheets have been translated into Spanish.

Large producers and their advisors will find answers to the most frequently asked questions related to the 2003 EPA (federal) regulations in the "[CAFO Fact Sheets](#)". The fact sheets are divided into four areas: General information, production area, land application, and Farm Bill and financial assistance.

The newest resource is a series of publications on environmental management systems for agriculture. The [Ag EMS](#) materials include six publications for producers and their advisors.

The LPES Curriculum can be accessed at <http://www.lpes.org>.

### Spotlight On...

## What is Video Streaming and How Do I Get the Best Possible Quality?

Watching video over the Internet is rapidly gaining popularity, for education and entertainment. Video can be delivered to your computer in one of two ways: a file download or as a "stream" of data.

Downloaded video must be saved to your hard drive before it can be played. Short video clips are not usually a problem, but larger files can take a lot of time to download, even on high speed connections.

LPE Learning Center webcasts are an example of video streaming. This method works by breaking the large file into small pieces. Once a piece is downloaded, it can be viewed. In the background, your computer is downloading and processing the next piece. Streaming allows video to start playing within a short time of clicking on a link. It also allows live events to be broadcast in real time or for video to be recorded and played on-demand.

With all these positives, why hasn't streamed video replaced TV? Mainly it is because video takes large amounts of bandwidth (faster internet connections have more bandwidth). Even if your connection has the potential for high video quality, it can be split

between many users so that your "share" is less than ideal. Software compensates for lower bandwidth by reducing the video quality. When more users are on the network, playback may become jerky and then improve when network traffic decreases.

While you cannot control all factors affecting video quality, you can take a few steps to ensure the best possible quality for your situation:

- Use the newest version of video software available for your computer and check that the connection speed and type are correct.
- If possible, avoid accessing video when network traffic is highest (lunch hour is especially busy).
- Check your computer manufacturer's website for the most up-to-date video and sound drivers.



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