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LPE Center News, December 2006

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National Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center

LPE Center News

December, 2006 Connecting Experts With Those Advising Producers http://lpe.unl.edu

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December 15 Webcast Reminder

"Pathogens in Animal Manure—Should We be Concerned (Part 2)?"

More information

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A text version of each article is available at http://lpe.unl.edu (click on newsletter) for reprinting in other newsletters or media.

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LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

Integrated Nutrient Management and Limits of the P-Index

The new year will bring a new set of resources to the LPE Learning Center. The Integrated Nutrient Management team will produce the first of three webcasts related to their topic area. January's webcast will kick off this series with "Integrated Nutrient Management and Limits of the Phosphorus Index". This seminar will discuss the roles of strategic and tactical planning tools in managing nutrients. More….

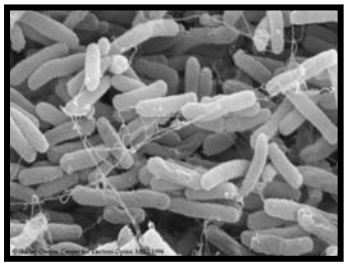
The speaker for this seminar is Dr. Doug Beegle, Professor of Agronomy at Pennsylvania State University. Information about the programs and speakers for the February and March webcasts from the Integrated Nutrient Management team is at http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast.html.

Date/Time: Friday, January 19, 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?

Pathogen Resources Available on the Website

The Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center pathogen team has released a set of resources targeted for use by livestock and poultry producers and their advisors. All of the resources are electronically available and include: a two-part webcast series on "Pathogens in Animal Manure, Should We Be Concerned?", a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) authored by experts in this field of study, and Recommended Reading-- educational resources and research summaries.



The pathogen resource page is available at http://lpe.unl.edu/pathogen.html. Within the next two weeks, the FAQ section will be expanded with questions from the "Pathogens in Animal Manure—Should We Be Concerned? (Part 1)" webcast.

National Resources

Quick Start Your Search With Dynamic Bibliographies

Where do you go to find out how effective conservation practices really are? Everybody has their favorite search engine, and here's another one to try. The National Agriculture Library's (NAL) Water Quality Information Center, partnering with NRCS and ARS, has developed dynamic bibliographies for research related to the Conservation Effects Assessment Program.

In contrast to a static bibliography, which is fixed in time, the dynamic bibliography runs a predefined search (crafted by the librarians) against the AGRICOLA database every time you click a button. The engine scoops all the entries from 2000 through today and presents them in a list.

For example, you want to know more about manure management effects on pathogens. First, go to http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/Bibliographies/dynamic.html. As you scroll down the entries, you will see "Manure Management: Effects on…Pathogens."

Click on the link. If necessary, choose citations for journals (Article Citation) or books (NAL Catalog).

A search for "Manure Management Effects on Pathogens" in Google resulted in 47,322 entries. The example query through NAL resulted in 58 entries. Each entry is linked to additional details if you're interested. Not every article in the bibliography is available in electronic form through NAL, but can often be found through other sources.

An additional advantage of the precise searches through the dynamic bibliographies is that you can easily sift for the level of data quality you need. The search is restricted to AGRICOLA, so you won't get every single current article on, say, the effects of feeding sardine oil to rats. What you will get is a concise list of useful references that provide a good start to your quest for knowledge.

--Article by Susan McCloud, NRCS Conservation Agronomist with the National Manure Management Team

Spotlight On…

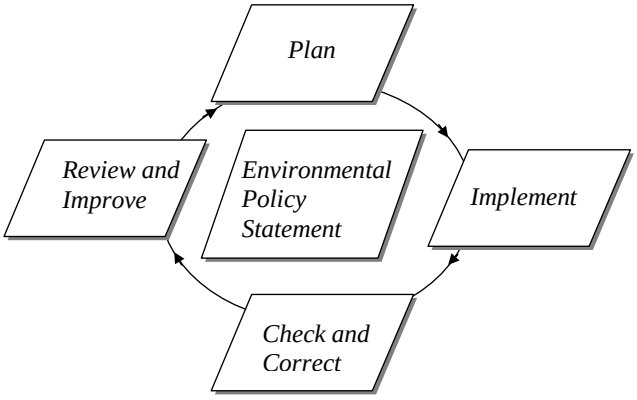
Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for Agriculture

An environmental management system (EMS) is a voluntary process with a Plan/Implement/ Check & Correct/Review & Improve cycle (pictured, right) for continually improving the environmental performance of a business. ISO 14001 (http://www.iso.org) is the best-known model.

Most livestock producers have already incorporated environmental considerations into their management, why would they need an EMS?

Existing efforts such as nutrient management plans, record keeping, and standard operating procedures are not replaced, rather, are better organized by the EMS process. If environmental management on the farm is a puzzle, an EMS adds the management "pieces" to ensure that existing technical plans are examined regularly and revised as needed for continual improvement.

Benefits derived from the EMS process will vary from farm to farm based on the unique system each will develop. Common benefits include: improved communication and employee performance, better regulatory compliance, a focus on preventing problems, and improved environmental performance.



For more information about EMS in agriculture:
--EPA Ag Compliance Assistance Center
--Partners for Livestock EMS
--University of Nebraska EMS webpage
--Utah State University EMS

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