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Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center

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LPE Center News, October 2006

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Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center

LPE Center News

October 2006 | Connecting Experts With Those Advising Producers | http://lpe.unl.edu

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October 20 Webcast Reminder

"Proposed Changes in EPAs CAFO Regulations"

More information

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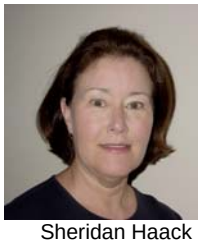
LPE Webcast Series

November Webcast to Focus on Pathogens

Two speakers will be featured in the LPE Learning Center November webcast "Pathogens in Animal Manure, Should We Be Concerned?".

Jeanette Thurston-Enriquez

Jeanette Thurston-Enriquez will cover the basics of pathogens and human exposure routes. She is an environmental microbiologist with the USDA-ARS Soil and Water Conservation Research Unit in Lincoln, Nebraska.


Sheridan Haack

The second half of the presentation will feature Sheridan Haack, a research hydrologist/microbiologist with the US Geological Survey, Michigan Water Science Center. She will present several case studies where livestock manure was the source of pathogenic organism outbreaks.

Date/Time: Friday, November 17, 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?

Webcast Archive Has Been Created

The September LPE Learning Center webcast, "The CNMP Development Course and Its Role in Local TSP Education" has been archived for viewers that missed the original webcast or would like to review some or all of the broadcast.

The archive will be set up to allow viewers to view the webcast in its entirety or to view selected segments. A list of links for additional information is included, as is the speaker's Powerpoint presentation (when available), and a written summary of questions/answers (including those we did not have time to air in the original webcast).

All future LPE Learning Center webcasts will be added to the archive as they become available (generally on the Monday following a webcast, except for the Q&A section which may take two or three weeks to compile). You can visit the archive at http://lpe.unl.edu/archive2.html.

Troubleshooting Webcast Connections

Real Player software is required to view LPE Learning Center webcasts. While the software is fairly easy to use, you may have to configure it to work with your other software, network settings and security software. For more information on downloading the software and testing your installation, go to http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast2.html. A list of common questions and answers related to Real Player setup is at http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast4.html

National Resources

USGS Program Measures and Monitors Water Quality

The US Geological Survey (USGS) National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) is a long-term project, which studies over 40 major river basins and aquifers across the nation. The program, started in 1991, looks at the condition of streams and ground water in the study units, at how those conditions are changing over time, and at how natural features and human activities affect those conditions. The goal of the program is to develop unbiased, long-term, consistent, and comparable scientific information to support sound management and policy decisions.

Five priority topics for the program's second decade include: fate of agricultural chemicals, effects of urbanization, bioaccumulation of mercury, effects of nutrient enrichment, and transport of contaminants to public-supply wells. For more information visit, http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/national_topical_studies.html.

"Studies on agricultural chemicals are providing insights into future management of water quality through the understanding of how nutrients and pesticides move with water from the field to streams and shallow ground water in different places across the nation. Our research shows that the hydrology of agricultural systems is very important in determining the potential benefits of certain practices as well as potential impacts of agriculture on water quality."
–Donna Meyers NAWQA program chief

Those involved in agriculture may especially be interested in two reports released in 2006, "County-level estimates of nutrient input to the land surface 1982-2001", http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2006/5012/ and "Pesticides in the Nation's Streams and Groundwater 1992-2001" at http://ca.water.usgs.gov/pnsp/pubs/circ1291/.

For more information about NAWQA, visit the website at http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/.

Spotlight On…

Center for Conservation Incentives Works to Create Partnerships

The goal of most landowners is to generate an economic return from their investment. The goal of most environmental advocacy groups is to conserve and restore natural resources. These goals have often been considered mutually exclusive but a groundbreaking Environmental Defense initiative, the Center for Conservation Incentives (CCI), regards private landowners as partners, not obstacles. The CCI works with landowners in obtaining financial and technical assistance for projects that benefit rare wildlife, water quality, air quality, and other resources--without taking land out of production.

These Pennsylvania land-owners partnered with CCI for a nutrient use efficiency project.

The vast majority of U.S. land is privately owned and contains large sections of some sensitive ecosystems. While regulations (sticks) do play an important role in conservation, CCI staff consider incentive-based programs (carrots) to be more productive in protecting resources.

"Farmers and other private landowners are the frontline of stewardship, and the first and best partners to advance critical conservation goals," said Suzy Friedman, CCI Staff Scientist. "We need to work together to find and advance economically viable solutions to pressing conservation challenges."

The CCI also works with policy makers to design and improve voluntary incentive programs, such as Safe Harbor, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

To learn more about the CCI, read some success stories, or subscribe to the email newsletter, go to http://www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagID=126&campaign=cci.

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