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Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center

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LPE Center News, July 2006

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Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center

LPE Center News

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

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To subscribe to this newsletter and LPE Center news, visit http://lpe.unl.edu and click on the "subscribe" link.

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We encourage you to share this newsletter or individual stories via listservs, other newsletters, or other media, with your colleagues or clientele. An MS Word version of these articles can be accessed at http://lpe.unl.edu and clicking on the "newsletter" link.

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What's Going On in the LPE Learning Center?

Introducing the LPE Learning Center

'Connecting experts with those advising producers' on livestock environmental issues is the vision for the new Livestock and Poultry Environmental (LPE) Learning Center being launched this fall. The LPE Center, funded through the USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES), utilizes a "customer-driven" approach (a national advisory team of stakeholders) to identify critical environmental issues specific to animal agriculture.

The center then turns to its outreach team, a multi-organizational group, to identify national experts and resources related to selected priority issues. Currently, the center has teams working in the areas of integrated nutrient management, capturing the value of manure, alternative technologies for manure treatment, and pathogens & pharmaceuticals. These issue based work groups will contribute to our monthly webcast seminars beginning in September 2006 (always the third Friday at 1:30 pm Central time). Additional information will be accessible through our Learning Center web site. Our first release of the web site, http://lpe.unl.edu, is available now with an excellent national resource listing targeting extension/education, regulations/policy, research, technical assistance, planning tools, and financial assistance.

The end-user of this information is ultimately the livestock or poultry producer. However, the LPE Center team is committed to supporting existing networks delivering information to producers. Our target audience is the advisor, whether they are ag organizations, public and private sector advisors, or those involved in public policy.

We invite you to subscribe to future Learning Center newsletters (see left hand column). We hope you will see benefit in staying abreast of activities of the Learning Center and sharing its resources, including this newsletter, with co-workers and clientele. We also welcome your suggestions for future web cast seminars and national resource on the Learning Center web site. A "Suggestion Box" is available for sharing your ideas.

Rick Koelsch, University of Nebraska
Joe Harrison, Washington State University
Mark Risse, University of Georgia
Jill Heemstra, University of Nebraska

LPE Webcast Series (3rd Friday of each month at 1:30 pm Central)

Webcast Series to Begin September 2006

The Livestock and Poultry Environmental (LPE) Learning Center will begin monthly webcasts on environmental issues related to livestock and poultry on September 15, 2006. The first webcast will feature the national CNMP Development Curriculum offered through Iowa State University. For information on how to connect to this and future webcasts, visit http://lpe.unl.edu and click on the webcast link. Future newsletters will feature the webcast topics and presenters for upcoming programs.

National Resources Spotlight

EPA Ag Center is "First Stop" for Compliance Information

Environmental regulations related to agriculture have greatly increased in complexity. As a result, producers and their advisors need access to information about compliance. To address the need for a single point of contact for information, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with USDA, created the National Ag Compliance Assistance Center.

The Ag Center, directed by Ginah Mortensen, is experiencing increasing demand for information:

- The toll free number has more than doubled over last year.
- The Ag Center has already distributed over 80,000 documents (all free of charge) through the first half of the year.
- More than 1800 subscribers are signed up for the free email News Service.
- The Ag Center website has already seen more "user sessions" (>100,000) on the website than all of last year.

The audience accessing Ag Center resources is shifting. "For the first time, the most common type of requestor is farmers, ranchers and producers, followed by extension agents", says Carol Galloway, senior analyst with the Ag Center, "In the past, the most common requestors have been ag businesses and EPA offices." The Ag Center's main focus is on compliance assistance, however information about pollution prevention practices and technologies is also available.

To access the Ag Center, you can visit their website at http://www.epa.gov/agriculture or call the toll free number, 1-888-663-2155. Of immediate interest is the proposed revisions to the CAFO regulations that are accessible at http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/anafoidx.html#cafoguide. A comprehensive list of regulatory resources, including the Ag Center, are found on the LPE Learning Center website, http://lpe.unl.edu and by clicking on the "National Resources" link.

EPA, through the EPA Ag Center, is an important partner in the LPE Learning Center.

Spotlight On…

In Memory

Frank J. Humenik, 68, died Tuesday, March 28, 2006.

Frank was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 26, 1937. He received his PhD from Ohio State University, was a Professional Engineer and was named an ASAE Fellow. He was a Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and served as Coordinator of the National Center for Manure and Animal Waste Management at North Carolina State University.

The LPE Learning Center team wishes to dedicate this newsletter to Frank, a co-investigator for the project. He was a respected leader, peer and friend. His commitment to outreach and extension programs as well as national leadership for animal manure issues impacted many of us who work in this issue area. The ideals in which Frank invested his energy are embedded in every aspect of this project.

His enjoyment of barbecue and a Smoke Box restaurant in Kansas City was legendary. When returning home late some night, you might cast your eyes to the heavens and watch for a neon sign advertising "Burnt Ends". Frank's impact on heaven is likely to equal his many contributions here on earth.

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