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"LPE Center News, December 2007" (2007). *Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center Newsletters*. 13.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/lpelcnewsletter/13>

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LPE Center News



December, 2007

Connecting Experts With Those Advising Producers

<http://lpe.unl.edu>

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December Webcast
 “Innovative Manure Treatment Technologies Demonstrated Through the SBIR Program”
 December 14, 2007 at 2:30 pm (EST) [More...](#)

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LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

Dry Manure Housing Systems for Beef and Dairy Featured in the January, 2008 Webcast

As livestock producers search for ways to squeeze profits from ever-tighter margins and better manage environmental impacts, dry manure housing systems



Shawn Shouse

have emerged as a viable option for many reasons. The January, 2008 LPE webcast will highlight design and management considerations for dry manure systems for beef and dairy operations. Observations from a study comparing a bedded hoop building to an open lot in Iowa will be presented. Design and management recommendations for compost



Kevin Janni

dairy barns based on producer experience will also be discussed.

The speakers are Shawn Shouse, Iowa State University and Kevin Janni, University of Minnesota. For more information about this webcast:

<http://lpe.unl.edu/pdfs/08janflyer.pdf>.

Date/time: Friday, January 18, 2008 at 2:30 pm (eastern); 1:30 pm (central); 12:30 pm (mountain) and 11:30 am (pacific).

How to participate: See the steps at <http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast5.html>.

What’s Going On in the LPE Learning Center?

Survey to Determine Air Quality Webcast Topics

If you have checked out the 2008 webcast schedule (<http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast.html>), you have probably noticed several webcasts planned for air quality topics “to be announced”. Now, LPE Learning Center newsletter subscribers will help decide which topics are to fill those time slots.

Within the next two weeks, subscribers will receive a request to fill out a short survey on priority air quality topics. The survey will be available online and is estimated to take 15 minutes (or less). No personally identifiable information will be collected. Please take a moment to respond when you receive the request! We thank you in advance for your participation.

The air quality webcasts will be produced by the NRI funded “Air Quality Extension and Education: Opportunities for Enhanced Learning” project. For more information on the project, contact Dr. Rick Stowell, University of Nebraska, rstowell2@unl.edu.

Report Outlines Policy Changes to Clean Up the Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay has been the focus of a great deal of attention, as well as dollars, from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the private sector. The combined efforts of many have made the Bay one of the most prominent environmental focal points in the US.

Agricultural runoff and leaching has been identified as a major contributor of nutrient and sediment loads to the Chesapeake Bay. As a result, many programs have focused on agricultural production practices. The result has been a variety of regulations, incentives, and other policies. Some of these programs have been successful, others have not. Still others have a sound basis, but their actual impact has not been measured.

In an effort to assess the current state of agricultural policy and build a framework for future discussions, the Center for Conservation Incentives at Environmental Defense developed a report

"Farming for Clean Water". The report details current policies in the Bay watershed and examines progress toward stated goals. An economic analysis on the cost effectiveness of various programs is also included.



Recommendations in the report focus on ways to increase the effectiveness of traditional practices as well as encouragement to explore promising new solutions. Additional recommendations address ways to continue progress in an era of finite conservation budgets.

The report and a summary can be found at: <http://www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagID=17394> Additional information is available by contacting Suzy Friedman, report co-author at sfriedman@environmentaldefense.org

Spotlight On...

Virginia Project Offers Incentives for Improved Feed Management on Dairy Farms

Reducing the amount of P excreted in animal manure starts by addressing the #1 import of P to most farms—the feed. Virginia Tech University is leading a program that offers financial incentives and technical assistance to dairy farmers for feeding less P.

The Precision Phosphorus Feeding Incentive Program offers annual payments between \$3 and \$12 per cow for farms that feed P at levels 125% or less of the calculated requirement for their herd. The incentive structure is scaled so that the highest payments go to farms that consistently feed 105% or less of the herd's P requirement.



During the signup period, 215 farms enrolled. These farms represent over 35,000 cows with herd size ranging from 21 to 1000+. The first few groups to complete the first year of the project qualified for payments totaling around \$30,000.

The program offers more than money. Participating farms will receive extensive testing of feeds for many nutrients (not just P). Educational programs and materials will also be available to all dairy farmers and nutritionists, not just program participants. An intensive feed management study on 10 farms will also be conducted.

The program is funded through a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) from the USDA NRCS. Additional funding is provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

For more information, contact Dr. Charlie Stallings, 540-231-3066, cstallin@vt.edu or visit http://www.vtdairy.dasc.vt.edu/environmental_stewardship.htm



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.