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Making Money and Helping the Environment

The May 16, 2008 webcast topic will be “Market Based Conservation-Implications for Manure Management. Market based conservation is based on the premise that conservation practices implemented by farmers may have value to others in society and therefore farmers may be able to generate income by implementing these practices. This webcast will provide an overview of this concept and present the experiences of active programs. For more information, see the flyer at: http://cop.extension.org/mediawiki/files/4/49/08mayflyer.pdf.

The speakers are Suzy Friedman, Center for Conservation Incentives at Environmental Defense Fund; Dale Dewing, Cornell University; and Jim Jensen, Environmental Credit Corporation.

Date/time: Friday, May 16, 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://www.extension.org/pages/How_Do_I_Participate_in_a_Webcast%3F.
Manure Entrepreneurs: Turning Brown to Green

Entrepreneurs are taking advantage of economic, cultural and environmental changes in the US to transform what was once called a waste into what is now recognized as a resource. There are a number of factors that make manure an increasingly valuable resource.

According to USDA, average prices for major fertilizer nutrients were 130% higher in January 2008 than in January 2000. Many crop farmers are interested in replacing some of that fertilizer cost with manure nutrients.

Higher energy prices also mean that manure is a more viable source of energy than ever. There is increasing interest in directly burning manure, a twist on cowboys’ use of buffalo chips, or in capturing methane from the anaerobic digestion of manure.

Some farmers are receiving carbon credits by covering their lagoons. Others, especially those where available cropland is insufficient to land apply manure, have additional incentives to develop a marketable product from their manure.

The University of Missouri will host the 2008 Breimyer Seminar “Manure Entrepreneurs: Turning Brown to Green” in Columbia, Missouri on May 22. The seminar will honor the memory of Dr. Charlie Fulhage who was a manure management expert and early proponent of capturing methane from manure.

For a brochure or registration form, contact Joyce White, whitej@missouri.edu, 573-882-0134. For program information contact Dr. Laura McCann at McCannL@missouri.edu.

Iowa Releases Final Rule on Manure Application to Soybean Cropland

In February, 2007, the LPE Learning Center hosted a webcast on manure application to legumes. Part of the webcast discussed Iowa’s proposed ban on manure application to land planned for soybean production. (Archived at http://www.extension.org/pages/Manure_Application_to_Legumes_Webcast_Archive). This article is an update on the rule that was recently approved by the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission.

Instead of an outright ban, the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) voted to limit the application of liquid manure, process wastewater or settled open feedlot effluent to 100 pounds of available nitrogen per acre on cropland that is planted to soybeans or will be planted to soybean in the next crop year. This limitation will be in effect for the next five years.

After five years, the EPC will review available scientific research. At that time, the EPC will decide if the practice [liquid manure application to soybeans] should be completely prohibited. For more information, visit the Iowa Manure Management Action Group http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/.

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