



Management Solutions

Agronomic Solutions, LLC

Fall 2011 Issue



We are moving!

By the time that you receive this newsletter, we will be in the process of moving to our new home and office location.

Our address is changing to: **7070 S 500 W, Topeka, IN 46571**

Our phone numbers will remain the same as they are now.
Office: 260-593-2092; Melissa's cell: 574-202-2608

The office will be closed for moving from November 23rd—30th (Wed. through Wed.). If you have an emergency you may call. Otherwise, if you could wait until the 30th of November we would greatly appreciate it. Hopefully by that time the phones and computers will be back up and online.

This is a seasonal publication produced by Agronomic Solutions, LLC for the confined feeding operators. Issues and information addressed in the newsletter will be geared towards animal feeding operation owners and managers. Hopefully you will find its contents useful in your operations. (260) 593-2092



Fall To Do Checklist

Fall is a busy time of year with a lot of work to get done. Here is a quick reminder checklist to make sure everything gets done.

- Safely harvest crops
- Clean out and inspect manure storages
- Collect manure samples for analysis
- Spread manure at agronomic rates
- Calibrate manure spreaders
- Soil sample land application fields
- Spread cover crops on liquid surface applied fields
- Update manure spreading & operating records
- Sign up for NRCS EQIP contracts

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The Updated Value of Manure...

The charts below show what the average manure value is per acre.

Current Fertilizer Prices

0-0-60 Semi	1200# K ₂ O/ton	\$640.00 / ton	\$0.533/ # K ₂ O
28% Semi- prepay	560# N/ton	\$400.00/ ton	\$0.714/ # N
11-52-0	1040# P ₂ O ₅ /ton	\$ 700.00 / ton	\$ 0.673/ # P ₂ O ₅

Swine Grower Pit			Dairy Lagoon		
N	33	\$23.56	N	2.1	\$1.50
P	33	\$22.21	P	9	\$6.06
K	27	\$14.39	K	9.3	\$4.96
	Per 1000 gal	\$60.16		Per 1000 gal	\$12.52

4000 gal/A = \$240.64/acre

12,000 gal/ A = \$150.24/acre

Beef – Manure Pack			Litter - Broilers		
N	5.3	\$3.78	N	23.4	\$16.71
P	5.0	\$3.37	P	30.9	\$20.80
K	7.6	\$4.05	K	24.3	\$12.95
	Per ton	\$11.20		Per ton	\$50.46

25 ton/A = \$280.00/acre

5.0 ton/A = \$252.30/acre

Know Your Manure...

Manure is a significant benefit to your farm - if managed properly.

This chart shows nutrient value, but manure is so much more than that. It also has biological and organic benefits. You should want to spread manure on as many of your row cropping acres as possible.

It's important to know what rates you are actually spreading so make sure you calibrate your spreading equipment for the proper rate. Taking credit for nutrients that you apply adds up to big savings on your fertilizer bill.

Get your manure analyzed. We are constantly working at getting you the most detailed information so you can make the best decisions for your operation. The only way we can do this is if you are consistent in pulling your manure samples. This is valuable information. Over-time we should be able to develop a good working number to best represent each storage for you to use in your planning for your fields.

...now worth an average \$231/ acre.

Manure Sampling...

Are you staying on top of the manure sampling that is required for the various plans? I find that this is an area where the majority of the producers I work with are lacking.

If you have an EQIP 633, a CFO, or a CAFO **you are required to have an annual manure sample.**

According to the Indiana regulations for CFOs and for CAFOs you are required to have annual sampling in ALL storages. That means you must pull a sample from each storage EVERY year. This is definitely an area where we need to be more consistent.

STEPS TO TAKE WHEN PULLING MANURE SAMPLES

1. Pull the manure samples
2. Freeze the samples and keep frozen
3. Call me to get my lab ID so you can turn it in — or call me and I will stop by, pick them up, and get them to the lab for you.

However you choose to get the samples to the lab is OK — **JUST DO IT!**

And then ... make sure I get the results.

Cover Crops—Manure's Best Friend...

After the fall harvest there is little crop residue and, regardless of soil type, machinery and rain pack the soil making the surface hard and impermeable. Much of the surface applied manure will be carried away by the next rain.

Consider the Cover Crop.

The roots of the cover crop make the soil surface more permeable so water and manure pollutants are less likely to move over the surface. The top growth reduces runoff. Manure nutrients are literally held hostage over the winter. The nitrogen is harnessed in the roots and green tissue ready to be released in the spring when the cover crop is killed off. Even if only 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen are retained, spring fertilizer costs can be reduced by \$30 per acre. The savings increase when phosphorus and potassium values are included.

Cover crops not only improve soil quality, add organic matter and reduce compaction, but a green cover crop in late winter and early spring makes a good impression on your neighbors.

Remember, the cover crop must be killed in the spring, not harvested, for the nutrients to be saved for the new crops. Cover crop seedings do not have to be perfect. The goal is not yield per acre but nutrient recovery and environmental protection per acre.

Proposed CAFO Rule...

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently accepting public comments on a proposed new rule which could increase the amount of information owners of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) report. Those involved in the livestock industry are encouraged to provide feedback during the comment period which closes on December 20th.

Unlike most regulated industries, the EPA does not have facility-specific information for all CAFOs. The proposal would require CAFOs to provide basic information through a simple online form, including: facility contact information, production area location, whether the CAFO has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, the number and type of animals at the CAFO, and the number of acres available for land application of manure, litter, and process wastewater. The EPA's proposal does not change which CAFOs need permits under NPDES but will allow the agency to carry out its CAFO permitting programs more effectively and ensure that CAROs are implementing practices to protect water quality and human health.

The proposal includes two options regarding which CAFOs would be required to submit information. The EPA is requesting public comment on both options, as well as alternative approaches. For more information, see:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/afo/aforule.cfm>

Foaming Manure Guidelines...

Fall is a time to spread manure. With cooler temperatures and reduced ventilation rates in finishing facilities, there are increased risks associated with manure hauling; particularly when there is foam in manure pits. Severe burns, pig deaths and building fires have been reported in recent years on farms where foam and methane have accumulated in manure pits.

As foam forms on manure, surface gases are captured in the bubbles. They may contain 60 to 70 % methane. When the foam is undisturbed there is minimal risk. However, when the foam is disturbed through regular management activities such as manure agitation and/or pumping and power washing, large amounts of methane may be released into the air space above the slats. The released methane is easily ignited and may lead to barn explosions and flash fires. Minimum ventilation rates increase the risk.

Farmers with foaming manure pits need to take precautions.

- When hauling manure, do not enter and do not let employees enter the room being pumped. The risk is too great to allow for visual monitoring.
- Be extremely cautious when power washing rooms over foaming pits.
- Turn off heaters, pilot lights and non-ventilation electrical equipment in the room being pumped or power washed. Enforce no smoking rules.
- Open all air inlets slightly to reduce static pressure and prevent incoming ventilation air from short-circuiting through the pump out opening. Lowering static pressure also helps ensure the wall fans don't overpower the pit ventilation and draw pit gases up into the air space above the slats.
- Maximize ventilation during warmer weather.
- During cool weather, set the pit ventilation at its maximum level and run at least one wall fan (20 to 30 CFM per pig minimum).
- Continue to run pit ventilation while the room is empty between groups of pigs. Many of the flash fires reported happened while the barn was empty.
- If the pit is nearly full of manure or a combination of manure and foam, don't agitate until there is two to three feet of head space in the pit. Lack of head space reduces the effectiveness of the pit ventilation and allows gases to escape into the air space above the slats.
- Discharge all agitated manure under the manure surface. Do not shoot manure over the pit surface (rooster tail) and do not shoot manure against walls and pillars. As the pit empties shut down the agitation when the returning stream begins to disturb the manure surface.
- Allow the ventilation system to operate at increased levels for at least 30 minutes after disturbance to the foam has been complete..

Category 14 - is this for you?...

A Fertilizer Applicator License is required by January 1st for ALL IDEM permitted CFOs and CAFOs.

If you have an IDEM permit and come under one of the three groups listed, you need to make sure you have the Category 14 license.

1. You spread manure commercially, either from your operation or from some other permitted operation
2. You spread manure from your own permitted operation on your own fields
3. You buy or receive manure from another CFO or CAFO to spread on your fields

If you sell or give away your manure, you must get a distributors license. The License will cost \$45 annually and you must have it by Jan. 1.

Does any of this sound like it involves you?

To get your Cat. 14 license requires that you pass a test. You can call me for information or you can go to an H & R testing facility.

If you are not sure if this involves you... give me a call. We have put together a booklet which lets you know what kind of things you will be expected to know on the test.

EQIP 2012 Update

The official guidelines have not been released yet, but the programs look to stay similar to last year's programs. Now is still a good time to call and make an appointment to meet with your DC and discuss possible EQIP funding for your farm.

Place
Stamp
Here

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Soil Sampling...

Sign up for NRCS's EQIP 590 High Management cost share

Combat high fertilizer prices with a good soil sampling program with unbiased fertilizer recommendations.

Consider intensively sampling your fields.

Grid

Sample every 2.5A grid on the field



A good soil sampling program is the basic building block for your entire farming operation.

- ◆ Are your soil samples 2—3 years old?
- ◆ Do they represent areas greater than 20 acres?

If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, you should have new samples pulled this fall!

Please contact us as soon as your harvest is complete so that we can get started.

Dates to Remember

Jan. 1: All IDEM CFOs and CAFOs must meet the requirements for Category 14

Jan. 17, 18, 19: 2012 Fort Wayne Farm Show
Allen Co. War Memorial Coliseum

Feb. 15: IN NPDES CAFO Annual Reports due

Feb. 15-18: National Farm Machinery Show
Louisville, KY

Apr. 1: MI NPDES CAFO Annual Reports due