



Management Solutions



Agronomic Solutions, LLC

Spring 2014 Issue

News Flash!

Change for Noble County AFOs

In March the Noble County Plan Commission approved a series of changes that affect Confined Feeding Operations in unincorporated areas of Noble County.

The definition of Confined Feeding was changed to match IDEM's definition: total animals is at least 300 cattle, 600 swine, 30,000 ducks or chickens.

A farm that falls below these levels is not considered Confined Feeding. These farms must have a setback of 85' from the front and 25' from the property lines.

A Confined Feeding Operation must get an IDEM Permit and have setbacks of 250' on all sides. They must also get rezoned as A3 with the county. So plan ahead since this could add 4 - 6 weeks to the permitting timeline.

LaGrange County Update

The county is still considering making changes to current AFO rules, but no timeline has been established for when this might happen.

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

Welcome, Susie! ...

Susan Troyer has joined the ranks of "The Manure Ladies". She is in charge of the LaGrange County AFO division - as well as being a willing helping hand in any area in the office and out visiting farmers. Susie has an extensive back ground in farming.

She's the mother of two children: son in high school and daughter in middle school. They live near LaGrange. Susie is a great addition to Agronomic Solutions.

Spring To Do Checklist ...

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

- Get us updated soil samples
- Clean out and inspect manure storages
- Collect manure samples for analysis
- Calibrate manure spreaders
- Spread manure/fertilizer at agronomic rates
- Update manure spreading & operating records
- Complete spring tillage
- Inspect / calibrate planter and drill
- Accurately & carefully plant your crops
- Scout fields for emergence
- Replant only if necessary
- Don't forget to sign up for NRCS EQIP contracts

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Value of Manure Current Book Values ...

The charts below show the average manure value per acre.

Current Fertilizer Prices—April 15, 2014

28% Semi- prepay	560# N / ton	\$318.00 / ton	\$0.568 / # N
11-52-0	1040# P ₂ O ₅ / ton	\$600.00 / ton	\$0.577 / # P ₂ O ₅
0-0-60 Semi	1200# K ₂ O / ton	\$437.50 / ton	\$0.365 / # K ₂ O

Swine Grower Pit			Dairy Lagoon		
N	33	\$18.74	N	2.1	\$1.19
P	33	\$19.04	P	9	\$5.19
K	27	\$9.86	K	9.3	\$3.39
	Per 1000 gal	\$47.64		Per 1000 gal	\$9.77

4000 gal/A = \$190.56/acre

12,000 gal/ A = \$117.24/acre

Beef – Manure Pack			Litter - Broilers		
N	5.3	\$3.01	N	23.4	\$13.29
P	5.0	\$2.89	P	30.9	\$17.83
K	7.6	\$2.77	K	24.3	\$8.87
	Per ton	\$8.67		Per ton	\$39.99

25 ton/A = \$216.75/acre

5.0 ton/A = \$199.95/acre

Duck—Liquid		
N	17.6	\$10.00
P	25.9	\$14.94
K	19.3	\$7.04
	Per 1000 gal	\$31.98

5,000 gal/A = \$159.90 acre

...now worth an
average of
\$176.88 / acre

Use your manure wisely...

Manure is often an under-valued resource. If well managed and properly applied, it reaps many benefits.

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 planning for your fields.

Remember that the money amounts in the chart are general guidelines of what your manure could be worth, not a selling price. There are too many other factors (transportation costs, etc.) that must be taken into account when setting a selling price.

Farmers should delay spring manure applications

Taken from an April 2014 article by Jerry May and Shelby Bollwhan, Michigan State Extension

I once hired a retired contractor to help me with a large project. As we worked I learned he had many inappropriate sayings but once in a while he would present one worth remembering. "Take your time, you'll get more done," was one of his more useful sayings.

We have all seen it. Soil conditions weren't quite right when the neighbor farmer started working in the spring then all summer long the tire tracks of the tillage tractor can be picked out angling across the field as the crop growing over the tracks is stunted and behind the rest of the field. Those compacted tracks will also show up at harvest in reduced yield and in subsequent years as the farmer tries to rebuild the field's soil structure.

Spring 2014 is having a hard time coming. We are well into April but fields are still saturated and snow banks still exist in many places. Spring fieldwork is being put on hold while everyone is hoping for better weather. Once fields begin to firm up and dry out, long hours will be put in trying to make up for lost time.

Spring manure application is one of the most challenging farming practices. Large tractors pulling heavy manure spreaders across soft fields, if rushed, will lead to compacted soils and reduced yields. The negative impacts of soil compaction are well documented. But given today's large equipment, is it possible to spring apply manure without the negative consequences of soil

compaction? Research from the University of Wisconsin encourages allowing soils to dry out before starting spring applications.

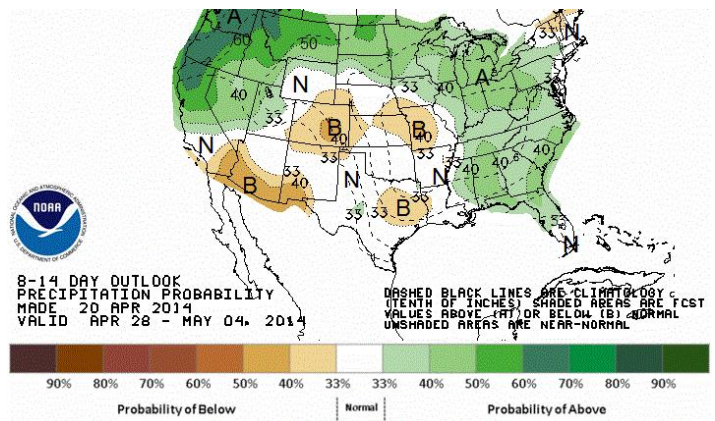
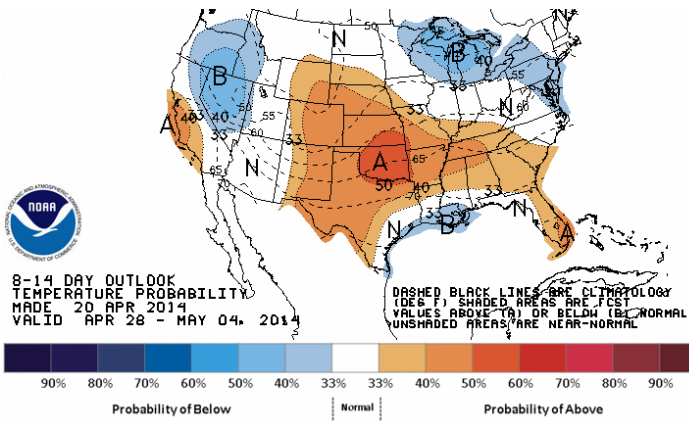
Using eight different sites across four Wisconsin counties, researcher Greg Sanford and his team tested the impact of manure application made under acceptable field conditions. Each site consisted of three treatments: manure, farmer check and compaction only. Manure was applied using either tractor drawn tankers (4,600 and 5,700 gallons) or a truck-mounted tank (4,000 gallons) with maximum axle weights ranging from 19,880 to 30,955 pounds. The farmer check and compaction only treatments received commercial fertilizer to meet crop nutrient needs. Manure was applied at 12,000 gallons per acre and additional nitrogen supplied based on the results of pre side-dress nitrate tests. The compaction only treatment consisted of driving across the plot with the loaded manure spreader the same number of trips as was required for the manure application at that site. Sanford and his team reported no yield differences between the three treatments and concluded that when applying manure on relative dry soils, compaction from manure spreaders does not significantly impact yields.

My contractor's clever remark is particularly applicable this spring. Being patient by allowing fields to dry out prior to starting manure applications will be rewarded in the fall with higher yields and improved soil structure.

8 to 14 Day Outlooks

Valid: April 28 2014 to May 04 2014

Updated: 20 Apr 2014



Pre Side-dress Nitrate Test (PSNT) ...

A PSNT test is used in the field right before the corn is side-dressed (6"-12") to get a "snapshot" of the amount of nitrogen available to the plant. Considering the cost of nitrogen, if you haven't prepaid, you don't want to put on anymore than you have to for maximum yield. This test is targeted to be used in fields where manure has been applied in the past year or if it has a history of previous applications. The test will also be accurate on high organic matter fields. I would **not** recommend it on sandy fields with no history of organic sources of nitrogen being applied.

The procedure to have us PSNT sample for you requires you to:

(1) Call us with a planting date to be pre-scheduled for pulling since the window for pulling samples is very limited. (2) Seven to five days before you want to side-dress your crop, call again to let us know you're ready for sampling. (3) We will come out and pull the samples, refrigerate them and get them to the lab. (4) The lab processes the samples the next day and we get results to you for side-dress amounts required.



The cost for this service is \$3.00/ acre. So, if you think you can save yourself about 10 lbs of nitrogen per acre, this service will pay for itself in increased management on your part. Sometimes the test shows that you lost more nitrogen than normal from your manure application and it requires more N to be applied; but because you had the PSNT sampling, you caught it early and saved yourself from possible yield loss. So you're a winner either way.

Plan ahead!

Call us today to set up an appointment

Foaming Manure Guidelines ...

Cooler temperatures and reduced ventilation rates in finishing facilities increase risks associated with manure hauling; particularly when there is foam in manure pits. Severe burns, pig deaths and building fires have been reported where foam and methane have accumulated in manure pits.

As foam forms, surface gases are captured in the bubbles. They may contain 60 to 70% methane. Undisturbed foam has minimal risk. However, when it's disturbed through regular management (ie: 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 increases the risk.

Farmers with foaming manure pits - TAKE PRECAUTIONS!

- When hauling manure, do not let anyone enter the room being pumped. The risk is too great to allow visual monitoring.
- Use extreme caution when power washing rooms over foaming pits. Turn off heaters, pilot lights and non-ventilation electrical equipment in the room. *No smoking!*
- Open all air inlets slightly to reduce static pressure and prevent incoming ventilation air from short-circuiting through the pump out opening.
- 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 happen while the barn is 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.
- Allow the ventilation system to operate at increased levels for at least 30 minutes after disturbance to the foam is complete.

Attention: All MMPs & Michigan Plans ...

We would like to pull your new soil samples in order to keep your paper work and samples in good order for compliance issues.

If you prefer to pull soil samples yourself, we would like for you to come to our office before pulling so we can get the field maps and soil test sites coordinated. This will save a lot of time when we process the tests - fewer phone calls and questions.

The end result will be that your files will be in better order and your bill should be smaller!

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Stamp
Here



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Office Visits...

While we love to come and visit your farms, we *would like to encourage you to come to the office*. This will keep your bill lower by saving a trip charge/mileage. We can also have your site plan up on the computer and make changes as you are here which will keep the bill lower on labor hours. This also will allow a quicker turn-around time for your site plans. Please call ahead to make an appointment. 260-593-2092

Sign up for NRCS EQIP 2014

Don't forget to get in on the NRCS EQIP money allocated for 2014. They are taking applications now.



The final day to sign up is May 6th

It's imperative that you apply now!

Call me or your local District Conservationist.

We can help you put the EQIP contract together.

Dates to Remember ...

June 4-6: World Pork Expo

location: Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, IA

Sept. 27-29: World Beef Expo

location: Milwaukee, WI

Category 14 Test Dates at Purdue University—2014 (regional testing is over for the spring)

May 6

EXAM PROCEDURES:

June 10

1. Location of exam: Stewart Center

July 8

2. Starts at 1:30 PM

August 5

3. Bring a government-issued photo ID

September 4

4. Exams are closed book, multiple choice

October 7

5. Only single-function calculators without printers are permitted. NO cell phones, PDAs or computers

November 4

6. Exam time limit: 90 minutes

December 9

LaGrange County Pasture Walks

Pasture Walks take place from May through October every year, typically on the second Thursday afternoon of each month. The program is coordinated by the LaGrange County Soil and Water Conservation District. The SWCD schedules locations and provides transportation to and from the event.

Graziers from the area gather on grazing farms for an informal tour. The group, sometimes as large as 80 or small as 8, discuss anything that applies to farming. The host typically describes what he does on his farm, and the attendees ask questions or offer advice.

For more information contact the SWCD.