



# Management Solutions



Agronomic Solutions, LLC

Winter 2014 Issue

## The Manure Ladies



### Good-bye, Karrin ...

We regret to announce that **Karrin Koontz** is no longer with Agronomic Solutions. Many of you have come to know and trust Karrin as a consultant in the three years she has been with us.

Before coming to Agronomic Solutions, Karrin was a high school Ag teacher. During the many cut-backs in schools, Karrin was out of a job and we were able to benefit from her vast knowledge and agricultural background. However, she never lost her desire to be back in the classroom working with kids. During Christmas vacation a position opened at Whitco High School, Karrin applied, and was hired pretty much on the spot.

We wish her much success and happiness as she transitions into her new position.

We are adding other staff as needed. More announcements will be made in the next newsletter. We will not be able to go long without having someone replace Karrin who worked with county rules and procedures as well as EQIP clients.

### Welcome, Asher ...

**Asher Gingerich**, a sophomore at Westview High School, is joining the office staff part-time. Asher is taking over the website design as well as helping with the mapping, making Yellowbooks, etc. as time allows.

Asher is an honors student as well as being on the Westview High tennis team. He is a part of Eden Worship Center Youth Group and the head of the EWC sound team.

### Winter To Do Checklist

Winter is a time to step back and catch your breath from the busy cropping seasons. But to keep your competitive edge you must keep organized and educate yourself.

- Research & choose the best hybrids for your farm.
- Attend Farm Shows and meetings to see new ideas and equipment.
- Visit your NRCS DC to learn about cost-share programs and opportunities.
- Update manure spreading and distribution records.
- Update IDEM/ DEQ operating records binder.
- Complete annual NDPES report. Call and make an appointment if you want help or to review.
- Analyze yield maps. with a professional, if possible.

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

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## Value of Manure Current Book Values ...

The charts below show the average manure value per acre.

### Current Fertilizer Prices—January 28, 2014

28% Semi- prepay	560# N / ton	\$325.00 / ton	\$0.580 / # N
10-46-0	920# P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> / ton	\$520.00 / ton	\$0.565 / # P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>
0-0-60 Semi	1200# K <sub>2</sub> O / ton	\$457.00 / ton	\$0.381 / # K <sub>2</sub> O

Swine Grower Pit			Dairy Lagoon		
N	33	\$19.14	N	2.1	\$1.22
P	33	\$18.65	P	9	\$5.09
K	27	\$10.29	K	9.3	\$3.54
	Per 1000 gal	<b>\$48.08</b>		Per 1000 gal	<b>\$11.82</b>

4000 gal/A = \$192.32/acre

12,000 gal/ A = \$121.08/acre

Beef – Manure Pack			Litter - Broilers		
N	5.3	\$3.07	N	23.4	\$13.57
P	5.0	\$2.83	P	30.9	\$17.46
K	7.6	\$2.90	K	24.3	\$9.26
	Per ton	<b>\$8.80</b>		Per ton	<b>\$40.29</b>

25 ton/A = \$220.00/acre

5.0 ton/A = \$201.45/acre

*...now worth an average \$183.71/ acre*

## Using your manure wisely...

As I am sure you have all noticed, the fertilizer prices are down some, so that makes the monetary value of manure also decrease. However, keep in mind that manure is so much more than just nutrients. There are many biological and soil health benefits too! The nutrient value of manure has not decreased and you should view it as a vital part of your planning.

With stricter rules and regulations, it is imperative that producers keep good records, keep them updated, and not over apply their manure. The two key components in determining the proper spread rate of manure are soil test phosphorus level and manure analysis.

For IDEM permitted operations, a manure sample is required to be pulled each year from each manure storage where manure is taken to be spread. Soil samples should be pulled based on university standards at least once every 3-4 years. University standards state that one sample should not represent more than 20 acres.

## Changing Indiana County Rules...

Don't forget to stay up to date on any changes applicable to your home county. We know changes may be coming very soon for Noble County. It looks like things could be changing in other counties also. Most counties have rules and regulations for number of animals, setbacks from neighbors, roads, etc. There are only a couple of counties that don't have their own ordinances as it affects farmers. Make sure you know what your county requires. No matter what size of operation you have, you **MUST** stay within your county rules. If you don't know your rules, you can call us. We would be glad to send you a copy of your county's ordinance.

### Attention: Michigan DEQ CAFOs...

#### Your annual reports are due on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

We would like to get them done as soon as possible to avoid the "office chaos" of trying to meet the deadlines in the last week.

**Michigan CAFO operators, please contact us to set up an appointment** for you to come to our office or for us to come see you. We would like to collect all of your information before March. You should have received a letter from us in the last week or two outlining all of the information we need to file the new report. **Call us at your earliest convenience.**

### IDEM Emergency Spread Provision...

In view of this unusual weather, what are you legally supposed to do with your manure when your manure storage push off ramp is frozen, built up and un-useable?

I had a call from a farmer saying that their push off ramp was frozen up and they were winter time spreading because they had no other options. I explained that the only loop hole was to SELL the manure to a neighbor and have him spread it according to the OISC guidelines.

I then called IDEM and was told that if the farmer's storage is not working, he should take pictures which prove it is not working. If there is no place to stack or stockpile the manure, or neighbor to take it, they need to call their IDEM compliance inspector and let them know about their situation. The inspector can help them get a temporary Emergency Provision to winter time spread (rules to follow are on the back of the insert).

**BIG FINES AWAIT IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW THE RULES!**

## FARM SHOW WINNERS OF DRAWINGS FOR \$300 TOWARD SOIL SAMPLING

Midwest Farm  
Expo  
Tom Atwater  
Howe, IN

Ft. Wayne  
Farm Show  
Leslie Weatherford  
Galien, MI

### ***EQIP 2014 funds available...***

We've been told that NRCS has funds this year for the EQIP Cost Share Program.

**Indiana and Michigan deadline date to sign up  
February 21, 2014**

Are you thinking of having a CNMP written for your farm, looking into having increased manure storage built, wanting to utilize nutrient management, take advantage of waste utilization, use cover crops...or wanting to use any new environmentally friendly practices? Here is your chance to get financial assistance to make that possible.

***It's imperative that  
you apply now!***

EQIP provides farmers with financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices that are beneficial to our natural resources. Examples of such practices are soil health ideas like no-till and cover crops, irrigation scheduling, nutrient and pest management, pasture planting, wildlife habitat, animal watering systems, manure storage structures, and wetland restorations.



A set amount of money is allocated each year by the NRCS. The farmer must use the services of a TSP to have a plan drawn up showing how they will implement a practice. If the plan is approved, a contract between NRCS and the farmer is established and he receives a set amount of money in each of 3 years in order to accomplish his plan. *Practices do have to be completed if you sign up.*

If you have been considering adding a manure storage this may be the year for that. *Give us a call or go see your DC to get things set in motion.*

### ***Winter Manure Applications...***

Winter weather sure has presented its challenges this year! It's easy to forget how long the cold can last and how that affects our operations. Planning ahead on manure storage capacity and application timing should always be the goal to minimize winter manure applications. Sometimes Mother Nature has a way of changing our plans.

The challenge is to apply manure in a way that is labor-efficient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible. Extra precaution and care are needed in winter spreading because manure on frozen and snow-covered ground is not predictable.

Evaluate the Risk of Surface Run-off from Frozen and Snow-covered Ground. **Any fields adjacent to surface water or to a ditch that flows to surface water are high-risk fields.**



If storage is full, the best choice is to transfer the manure to another storage structure. If you must land apply, you can reduce the risks by choosing flat ground a long distance from a stream or tile inlet. Lower the spreading rate. Only remove enough manure to keep the storage from overflowing before spring. The risk goes up as snow depth increases and time between application and the spring thaw decreases.



Remember in Michigan winter application of manure is allowed, as long as you are following GAMPS. Indiana application on frozen ground is allowed only if you are not IDEM permitted. However, everyone must follow the new OISC guidelines.

*Following rules and regulations are important, but **you the producer need to realize that you are the one held responsible** if runoff occurs and manure reaches surface or groundwater and causes a water quality violation.*

Think Smart! Remember the eyes of the public are on your operation!

Place  
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 turnaround time for your site plans. Please call ahead to make an appointment. 260-593-2092

### Farm Bill passes the House...

After years of setbacks, a nearly \$100 billion-a-year compromise farm bill cleared the House. The five-year bill, which preserves generous crop subsidies, heads to the Senate, where approval seems certain. The White House said President Barack Obama would sign it.

The bill has been stalled for years due to the amount allocated for food stamps. The bill ultimately would cut about \$800 million-a-year from the \$80 billion-a-year, or around 1 percent. Conservatives felt that the cut was too modest and the liberals said the cuts were too deep.

To see a graph of the allocations in the bill, check out Agronomic Solution's Facebook page.

### Dates to Remember ...

- Feb. 7—8: Northern Indiana Grazing Conference**  
location: Michiana Event Center Howe, IN  
*We will exhibit—Come and see us!*
- Feb. 6—8: Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference (GLRDC)**  
location: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Feb. 12—15: National Farm Equipment Show**  
location: Louisville, KY

### **Apr. 1: Annual Reports for MI CAFO's are due**

#### Category 14 Test Sites:

- Feb. 17: Wanatah 3 - 6 p.m. CDT**  
Pinney Purdue Ag Center, Wanatah
- Feb. 24: Kendallville 3 - 6 p.m. EDT**  
Noble County Fairgrounds
- Mar. 18: Brazil 3 - 6 p.m. EDT**  
Clay County Fairgrounds

#### POINT Meetings—CCH and Category 14

- Feb. 5: 9 a.m. North Central Co-op Grower meeting**  
Peru, IN Sponsor: Steve Allen, 574-753-2929
- Feb. 11: 9 a.m. Jasper Co. Herbicide Resistance Weed Tour**  
Rensselaer, IN Sponsor: Bryan Overstreet, 219-866-5741
- Feb. 18: 9 a.m. Professional Applicator Workshop**  
Logansport, IN Sponsor: Vic Lenkaitis, 515-520-7511
- Mar. 18: 12:30 p.m. Using Pesticides Effectively**  
Winchester, IN Sponsor: Dan Kirtley, 765-584-2271