



Management Solutions

Agronomic Solutions, LLC

Spring 2015 Issue



Looking for a New Employee!

More rules and regulations are making it necessary for many farmers and farming operations to seek assistance in keeping records up-to-date. As a result Agronomic Solutions is needing more help. Currently we have four full time consultants and several part-time employees who do computer entry and various other jobs.

We are looking for another FULL TIME EMPLOYEE with at least some farming background and some computer experience who could begin as soon as possible.

If you know anyone with these qualifications, have them send us a resume and call Melissa to set up an appointment to discuss the possibility of employment.

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

LaGrange County Updates Finalized

LaGrange County Zoning Ordinance basic changes relating to animal agriculture are:

- ☑ The trigger for needing an AFO permit has changed from animal numbers to animal units. One animal unit is equal to 1,000 pounds. Thirty (30) animal units will trigger the need for an AFO permit. A calculation sheet for the different species is available through our office. Pasture based animals are exempt – not dirt lots, but pastures.
- ☑ The County no longer regulates the manure management issues in the AFO site plans, since the IN State Chemists Office is already regulating this.
- ☑ Side setbacks remain at 100 feet; roadside setbacks are now 125 feet.

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 | ☑ Complete spring tillage |
| ☑ Clean out and inspect manure storages | ☑ Inspect / calibrate planter and drill |
| ☑ Collect manure samples for analysis | ☑ Accurately & carefully plant your crops |
| ☑ Calibrate manure spreaders | ☑ Scout fields for emergence |
| ☑ Spread manure/fertilizer at agronomic rates | ☑ Replant only if necessary |
| ☑ Update manure spreading & operating records | ☑ 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—May 19, 2015

28% Semi- prepay	560# N / ton	\$315 / ton	\$0.563 / # N
18-46-0	920# P ₂ O ₅ / ton	\$575 / ton	\$0.625 / # P ₂ O ₅
0-0-62 Semi	1200# K ₂ O / ton	\$473 / ton	\$0.394 / # K ₂ O

Swine Grower Pit			Dairy Lagoon		
N	33	\$18.58	N	2.1	\$1.18
P	33	\$20.63	P	9	\$5.63
K	27	\$10.64	K	9.3	\$3.66
	Per 1000 gal	\$49.85		Per 1000 gal	\$10.47

4000 gal/A = \$199.40/acre

12,000 gal/ A = \$125.64/acre

Beef – Manure Pack			Litter - Broilers		
N	5.3	\$2.98	N	23.4	\$13.17
P	5.0	\$3.13	P	30.9	\$19.31
K	7.6	\$2.99	K	24.3	\$9.57
	Per ton	\$9.10		Per ton	\$42.05

25 ton/A = \$227.50/acre

5.0 ton/A = \$210.25/acre

Duck—Liquid		
N	17.6	\$9.91
P	25.9	\$16.19
K	19.3	\$7.60
	Per 1000 gal	\$33.70

5,000 gal/A = \$168.50/acre

...now worth an
average of
\$186.26 / acre

Optimizing Your Manure's Value...

Given manures high value, it's a topic worth discussing. Here is a basic overview of what you can do to get the most out of your manure.

1. Get Manure Samples Tested: All manure has different nutrient levels. Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium (NPK) levels change. It can be from a diet change, water usage or a number of other factors. Get your manure tested every season. Why take the risk of putting on too much or too little manure.

2. Get Soil Samples Tested: If you are applying manure to your own ground, make sure you are feeding your crops the nutrients they need. Your crops require a certain level of NPK. If there is not enough NPK in the soil from year to year and you mine your soil, you will, over time, "wear out" your land. Although manure is a very valuable fertilizer for your soil, depending on the manure, it may not provide ALL the nutrients needed. Call Agronomic Solutions to determine what those levels are, and how to supplement your manure accordingly. Your crop yield is worth the investment.

3. Keep Records: Not only is it required for barns over a certain size, but it allows you to compare nutrient levels in your manure over the years and modify your application rates based on trends. It also helps you better forecast any commercial fertilizer needs you may have for next year.

IDEM CFO Guidance Manual...

The CFO Guidance Manual is a tool for producers to understand the rule language and know what is expected to maintain compliance with IDEM regulations affecting their operations.

After hearing a number of suggestions for improvement from producers and commodity groups, IDEM decided to make revisions and update the guidance manual. You can find a download link to the new manual on IDEM's webpage.

Of particular note, the new guidance manual includes a more thorough explanation of the restriction on manure application to frozen and snow covered ground, perimeter tile drain systems, manure application calculations regarding phosphorous limits, as well as important information for the issues surrounding the marketing and distribution of manure.

Biosecurity ...

With the worst ever U.S. outbreak of bird flu leaving almost 45 million dead chickens and turkeys, we all need to be reminded of the importance of following good biosecurity procedures.

A major way to help protect your animals (birds, cattle, hogs, etc.) is to **control farm traffic**. Infectious diseases can be carried by people and equipment. Producers should:

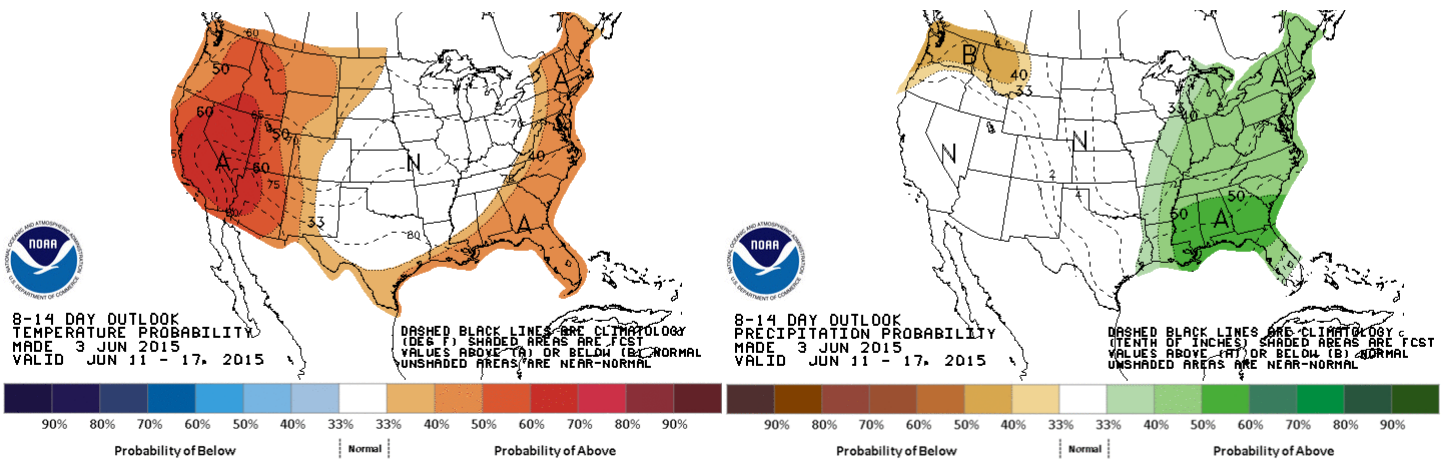
- Limit access on the farm to anyone who may have been at another farm.
- If you borrow equipment, make sure it has been cleaned before using it on your farm.
- Limit people's access to the barn. This may mean locking your barn.
- Make sure visitors wear clean boots and clothing in the barn. This is important if visitors have already been in other barns.
- Have sale animals (or dead animals) picked up without allowing the transporter to enter the barn or come in contact with your other animals.
- Keep record of all visitors.

It's difficult to control all traffic, but you can identify the traffic that represents the most risk. **As an FYI: Agronomic Solutions consultants follow biosecurity procedures as we come to visit your operation.** We wear clean disposable booties when we come onto your farm. We make it a practice to only enter one barn a day to prevent the spread of disease.

8 to 14 Day Outlooks

Valid: June 11, 2015 to June 17, 2015

Updated: June 3, 2015



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

A PSNT test is used 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

N - Management ...

How can you make sure you have enough Nitrogen and still be compliant with state rules? Sometimes this really feels like a balancing act. However, having a "management plan" and doing what it says will help to insure no over-application.

To stay in compliance with Indiana and Michigan rules **you are not allowed to apply more nitrogen than what the crop can use in a single growing season.**

A lot of farmers need a "wake up call" to help them understand the importance of knowing and recording just how much they are applying and when. People are watching! And people may be out to inspect your records due to the different rules. This is important in both Indiana and Michigan.

There is a way you can still legally apply more N to your field. It starts with a PSNT test. You MUST have the PSNT test results in your records to justify the extra N application.

Be sure to have your records up to date; for example: inspections, spread records, annual manure samples, soil tests (1 every 3 years). Please call us if you have any questions or concerns about your N program.

AGRONOMIC SOLUTIONS, LLC

Melissa Lehman
7070 S 500 W
Topeka, IN 46571

Phone: 574-202-2608
Office/Fax: 260-593-2092
E-mail: melissa@agronomicsolutionsllc.com

Place
Stamp
Here



website: agronomicsolutionsllc.com

Manure in the News ...

Cow Manure-Powered Bus Breaks Bus Land Speed Record

Recently, the entirely cow manure-powered “Bus Hound” from the UK-based Reading Buses broke the “bus land speed record” by zooming across the English countryside at over 80 mph.

The bus is able to run on compressed bio methane, a common gas produced by concentrating and purifying sewage and agricultural waste, which acts similarly to the natural gas that fuels propane tanks.

Chief engineer John Bickerton hopes to raise the bar on natural energy and show just how powerful cow poop can be. Ironically, he also wants to “get the image of bus transport away from being dirty, smelly, and slow”...by using animal dung, and painting each bus black and white to mimic the patterns of a Friesian cow. But unlike a cow’s measly four stomachs, each bus is outfitted with seven tank chambers to hold gas.



Dates to Remember ...

June 3-5: World Pork Expo
location: Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, IA

July 14-15: North American Manure Expo
location: Chambersburg, PA

Sept. 25-27: World Beef Expo
location: Wisconsin State Fair Park, Milwaukee, WI

Category 14 Test Dates at Purdue University—2015

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| June 3 | EXAM PROCEDURES: |
| July 9 | 1. Location of exam: Stewart Center |
| August 27 | 2. Starts at 1:30 PM |
| September 3 | 3. Bring a government-issued photo ID |
| October 8 | 4. Exams are closed book, multiple choice |
| November 12 | 5. Only single-function calculators without printers are permitted. NO cell phones, PDAs or computers |
| December 15 | 6. Exam time limit: 90 minutes |

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.

The next pasture Walk is Thursday, June 11 at 1:00 pm
Dennis Yoder Farm, LaGrange, IN

**For more information contact the SWCD.
260 463-3471 ext. 3**