Jan—Mar Edition

Management Solutions

Agronomic Solutions, LLC

Winter 2015 Issue

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS!

Know the rules! - Think smart! - Get it right! ...

Know the rules set down by IDEM, your County and also by the State Chemist. If you choose to ignore the rules, there could be serious consequences. These arms of government ARE NOT AFRAID TO FINE YOU.

The amount of enforcements and fines are increasing. So DO WHAT IS RIGHT, know the rules and pay attention to details.

THIS IS CRITICAL! A local farmer was recently fined $8750 for over applying manure to his fields resulting in too much nitrogen. (read more on pg 3)

Update on Melissa's Dad ...

As many of you know, Melissa's dad was diagnosed with cancer just before Christmas. Last week they got the results from recent tests showing that the Chemo is killing the cancer. With just a few live cancer spots remaining, Chemo will be continued until this round of treatment is completed.

Melissa is his primary care-giver, requiring her to be out of the office when he goes to his doctor or has chemo treatments, as well as at "unscheduled times" when needed.

Our office is well staffed. In addition to Melissa the office is staffed by three full time consultants capable of answering most of your questions, a bookkeeper, and two high school students who help out in mapping and other tasks to take some of the load off of the consultants. When Melissa is not in the office, our consultants are usually able to reach her by phone when necessary to get answers to your questions.

We would appreciate your patience as we all do our best to serve you with the same quality of work that you have come to expect from Agronomic Solutions. ***It is important that you call the office during business hours: 8 am - 4 pm , Mon. - Fri.*** Please avoid calling her cell phone if possible for now. You can email her.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please pray with us for her dad.

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 9, 2015

28% Semi- prepay	560# N / ton	$315.00 / ton	$0.563 / # N
11-52-0	1040# P_2O_5 / ton	$600.00 / ton	$0.577 / # P_2O_5
0-0-60 Semi	1200# K_2O / ton	$473.00 / ton	$0.394 / # K_2O

Swine Grower Pit				Dairy Lagoon		
N	33	$18.56		N	2.1	$1.18
P	33	$19.04		P	9	$5.19
K	27	$10.64		K	9.3	$3.67
	Per 1000 gal	**$48.24**			Per 1000 gal	**$10.04**

4000 gal/A = $192.97/acre 12,000 gal/ A = $120.47/acre

Beef – Manure Pack				Litter - Broilers		
N	5.3	$2.98		N	23.4	$13.16
P	5.0	$2.88		P	30.9	$17.83
K	7.6	$3.00		K	24.3	$9.58
	Per ton	**$8.86**			Per ton	**$40.57**

25 ton/A = $221.54/acre 5.0 ton/A = $202.84/acre

Duck—Liquid		
N	17.6	$9.90
P	25.9	$14.94
K	19.3	$7.61
	Per 1000 gal	**$32.45**

5,000 gal/A = $162.25/acre

...now worth an average of $180.01 / acre

Using your manure wisely is a matter of Practicality and Sensibility! ...

It is a practical savings on your pocket book – and a sensible savings on environmental concerns!

More and more farmers are pinching pennies to make the most of the income from their operation. Using your manure wisely will allow you to lower your input costs overall. Using a combination of Commercial fertilizer with the Manure Assets of your farm (or your neighbors' manure) is a great choice!

IF your test looks abnormal...RETEST!

Environmental concerns are a growing issue in the farming communities – and utilizing your manure wisely is a huge part of combating the concerns neighbors.

Since you are required to use you last test results in your reporting, it is important that you retest if you get abnormal results.

This chart shows nutrient value, but manure is so much more than that. It also has biological and organic benefits. It's important to know what rates you are actually spreading so make sure you calibrate your spreading equipment for the proper rate.

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.

Pit Safety ...

Man drowns in manure lagoon

Gas Fumes in Manure Pit Kill Five Michigan Farm Workers

Farmer, Wife, 2 Daughters And Farmhand Were Overcome By Methane

Two Farm Laborers Die in Oxygen-deficient Manure Pit

Father, son die after accident at farm

Headlines like these should never happen and can be avoided by following good safety practices. The first level of safety around manure pits is to control unauthorized access by installing fences, guard rails and locks on pit doors and covers. Place warning signs to prevent drowning and engulfment. Maintain good ventilation at all times.

Decomposition of manure creates gases such as hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and methane. These gases are hazardous because they are toxic in high concentrations. Covered pits and tanks of manure, along with manure pits within buildings, pose the greatest hazard of gas buildup. Regardless of the storage type, when manure is disturbed through agitation or pumping, the risk of gas release is the highest. ***Remove all unnecessary personnel and animals from around a manure pit before agitation or pumping.*** Maximize ventilation in the area through fans and blowers. Start the agitation slowly in order to control potential gas release. ***Never enter a manure pit during or immediately after agitation or pumping because there is always the possibility of deadly concentration of this gas.*** Plumbing and pumping equipment should be installed so that it can be easily removed for repairs.

When you must enter a manure pit, wear an air-supplying respirator to ensure a supply of good breathing air and use confined space entry procedures by wearing a harness and lifeline. **NEVER enter a manure pit unless someone is standing by and maintaining constant visual or auditory contact**. This standby person must:

- *remain at the opening of the pit during the entire time the pit is occupied,*
- *have a mechanical device (winch, hoist, or pulley) in place to help remove the person from the pit,*
- *be physically capable of using the mechanical device to lift an unconscious victim from the pit without entering it,*
- *resolve all details of the rescue plan, including availability of rescue equipment, before anyone enters the pit, and*
- *remember that a delay of even a few minutes could be fatal in an emergency*

Note that many accidents and deaths occur when people become overwhelmed by the gas buildup. Multiple deaths are common as rescuers quickly become victims. Never enter a manure pit to rescue a family member or worker. Call 911. Give details so the rescuers will bring the proper equipment.

IDEM Storm Water Management Requirements for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

We have just received a form from IDEM which MUST be updated weekly.

This is required Information:

As required by 327 IAC 19-11-1 (a), all CFOs that are defined as CAFOs in 40 CFR 122.23(b)(2).

The form must be kept in the facility's operating records. The following are the requirements related to storm water management:

1. Proper storage of manure to ensure manure is maintained within the approved storage structures. This prevents uncontained manure from contaminating clean storm water being drained away from the production area.
2. Ensure mortalities are not stored or disposed where storm water may become contaminated.
3. Maintain clean water diversion efforts including guttering when they prevent roof drainage from contacting manure, feed, bedding or other potential contaminants.
4. Ensure chemicals and other contaminants are not stored or disposed of in a storm water storage or treatment area.

If you have a CAFO Permitted operation, please contact us to send you a copy of the form.

This is not a suggestion—it is required!

(continued from pg 1)

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS!

Avoid Violations and Fines!

- ***Do not pile up the manure.*** Neighbors and enforcement agencies are watching.
- ***Get and keep your Records updated***
  - ⇒ This is a good time to think about that and do it since we are in a down time for farming.
  - ⇒ MICHIGAN: Make sure your annual reports are up to date and submitted
  - ⇒ INDIANA: Keep all of you records in compliance.
  - ⇒ YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMEONE WILL COME DO AN INSPECTION!
- ***Keep all of your soil samples up to date.*** Know when each field needs to be resampled and either take care of this yourself or call us to come do your sampling.
- ***Get proper manure samples.***
  - ⇒ If you just dip into a pit, the Nitrogen will be high and the Phosphorus will be low.
  - ★ You are required to use the last test taken for your reporting. If you get a bad test, TAKE A NEW SAMPLE TO GET A BETTER RESULT to submit on your report.
- ***Spread correct rates.*** Deciding to ignore these rates could have major consequences as noted on page 1.

Agronomic Solutions will do all we can to keep you out of trouble, but we will not submit incorrect information to protect you. ***KNOW THE RULES - DO IT RIGHT!***

Who needs the Category 14 Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification?

ANY person applying manure from a Confined Feeding Operation (CFO). This includes manure from a CFO-sized facility from out-of-state.

You need to get a:

Cat 14 Commercial License if you spread manure for hire. This requires the same test as private manure haulers.

Cat. 14 Distributors License if you sell or distribute any manure from a CFO or CAFO to another farm or producer.

Application can be found at http://www.isco.purdue.edu/pesticide/fertilizer_distributor license.html

Requirements to maintain Category 14 Certification:

Cat 14 Commercial License: 3 Continuing Credit Hours (CCH) over a 5 year period.

**PARP points DO NOT count toward your CCH credit hours.*

For Private Applicators: 3 Private Applicator Recertification Program (PARP) points over a 5 year period.

** no more than half the required CCH's or PARP's at any one single program*

Dribble Bar Manure Application ...

The dribble bar spreader originates in Europe where there is widespread restriction of manure application. The bar-like system that dribbles manure at low pressure onto the ground below the

plant leaves, allowing a greater amount to be applied with more accuracy, less runoff and less crop injury and less odor. The tool bar has more rows, which allow for application at ground level in seven to 10-inch spacings with no splash. The way the dribble bar prevents manure from touching the plant canopy also means reduced crop burn and ammonia loss.

The full article from Manure Manager is in the news section of our website.

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Dates to Remember ...

CCH and PARP Credits available free tickets!

TriState Conservation Farming Expo …

March 24, 2015 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Potawatomi Inn Resort & Conference Center
6 Lane 100A Lake James, Angola, IN 46703

Event offers credits for Commercial (CCH) and Private (PARP) Applicator and Continuing Education Credits for IN, OH, and MI.

Call Melissa (our office) for a free ticket. We have a limited number of tickets available on a first come basis.

Apr. 1: MICHIGAN Annual Reports due for MI CAFO's

Other Category 14 PARP Credit Meetings

Kosciusko PARP: Wed, Mar 11, 2015 8—10 AM
Agronomic Checklist for Corn; Palmer Amaranth and Herbicide Mode of Action; Drift Watch Crop Registry
Location: Kosciusko Ext. Ofc, 202 W Main, Warsaw
Contact: Kelly Heckaman, 574-372-2340

Noble PARP: Wed, Apr 8, 2015 1:30—3:30 PM
IPM, Insect Control; Adjuvant, Spray Droplet; Records
Location: Noble Co Extension Ofc, SR 9, Albion
Contact: John Woodmansee, 260-636-2111

Whitley Parp: Wed, Apr 8, 2015 9—11AM
IPM, Insect Control; Measuring Pesticide; Record Keeping
Location: 4H Center, Squawbuck Rd, Columbia City
Contact: John Woodmansee, 260-244-7615

Category 14 Testing Sites and Dates for a Commercial or Private License

Regional Category 14 Exams

Mar. 16 3-6 pm
Noble Co Fairgrounds, Kendallville, IN

Monthly Cat. 14 exams at Purdue U. (no training).
To schedule one of the dates below, call **800-893-6637**

Dates in 2015: March 16, 20; April 8, 17; May 6; June 3; July 9; Aug. 27; Sept. 3; Oct. 8; Nov 12; Dec 15

Cat. 14 exams at Remote H&R testing centers:
Indiana locations: Ft Wayne & Mishawaka
To sign up for the exam at H&R call 1-800-345-6559