



Agriculture Newsletter *Fall 2014*



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Manure Sampling

How to take a manure sample

To obtain a representative sample of the manure, it's best to sample when removing the manure from the storage to be spread.

For solid manure:

During loading:

1. Collect at least 5 samples of roughly the same size into a bucket as the storage is being emptied for land application.
2. Place the manure on a clean surface (tarp, concrete area, plywood) and mix thoroughly.
3. Obtain a subsample (about one cup) from the mixed pile to send to the lab.

During spreading:

1. Place a tarp in the field to collect manure as the spreader passes.
2. Collect a sample from the tarp and place it into a bucket.
3. Repeat this process from at least 4 more spreader loads.
4. Once all of the samples are obtained, mix thoroughly on a clean surface and collect a subsample from the mixture to send to the lab.

For liquid manure:

During loading:

1. The storage should be agitated thoroughly before attempting to sample. (If not well agitated, potassium and nitrogen will usually accumulate in the upper, more liquid part of the tank while phosphorus will concentrate in the solids towards the bottom of the tank.)
2. As the storage is being emptied and loaded into the spreader, collect and thoroughly mix approximately 5 samples in a bucket.
3. Take a subsample from the bucket (about one cup) to send to the lab.



During spreading:

1. Set buckets out in the field to capture manure either from the irrigation equipment/spreader.
2. Collect samples from multiple spreader loads.
3. Mix the collected samples together and obtain a subsample to send to the lab.



Manure sample containers and sample information forms are available at the district office, or you can contact Penn State's Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory at 814-863-0841.

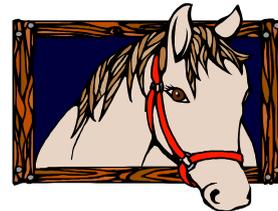
How manure samples are used in Nutrient Management Planning

Knowing how much nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium is in the manure that you are applying to your fields in addition to manure spreader calibration and soil test recommendations can help you determine if your crop's nutrient requirements are being met without applying more nutrients than you need. Contact the district for assistance in calculating a nutrient-balanced manure application rate specific to your farm using a Nutrient Balance Worksheet. A guide to completing the worksheet can also be found at the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program website panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu by following these steps:

1. Click on the "Manure Management Manual Program" tab under the "Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program" menu on the left.
2. Click on "Materials for writing your Manure Management Plan"
3. Click on "Manure Management Plan Nutrient Balance Worksheet User Guide"

Livestock Composting Service

Dr. Bill Wise of the Wise Veterinary Clinic located in Punxsutawney, PA is now offering a composting service to farmers needing a place to lay their animals to rest. The service is primarily for horses, however, other livestock are welcome to be composted as well. Animals will need to be delivered to the site – no pick-up services are available. For more information, contact Dr. Wise at 814-427-2424.



2014 Farm Bill Compliance Changes

Changes mandated through the 2014 Farm Bill require farmers to have on file a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026). The Farm Bill relinked highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation compliance with eligibility for premium support paid under the federal crop insurance program.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 form must be on file with the FSA. Since many FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs have this requirement, most producers should already have an AD-1026 on file. If producers have not filed, they must do so by **June 1, 2015**.

FSA recently released a revised form AD-1026, which is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov. USDA will publish a rule later this year that will provide details outlining the connection of conservation

compliance with crop insurance premium support. Producers can also contact their local USDA Service Center for information:

NRCS Service Center Office
DuBois Service Center
478 Jeffers Street
DuBois, PA 15801
(814) 375 – 2125

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was reauthorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary conservation program which provides an annual payment to producers and landowners who establish and maintain specific practices on their land for ten to fifteen years. Up to 100% of the cost to install the practices may also be reimbursed, along with cash incentive payments.

CREP is available for eligible cropland, and for marginal pastureland along non-forested streams.

For more information, contact the Farm Service Agency at (814) 375 – 2125 or visit www.creppa.org



Dairy Cattle Nutrition Workshop

Where: Holiday Inn Harrisburg - Hershey Hotel
604 Station Road Grantville, Pennsylvania 17028

When: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 -
Thursday, November 13, 2014
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

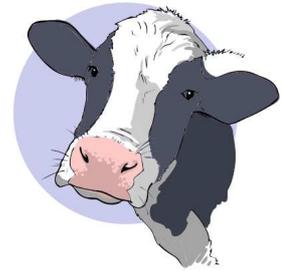
The November 12 pre-conference, sponsored by Chr. Hansen, Inc., will emphasize sustainability in dairy production from producing feed through maximizing nutrient utilization in the cow. Lecture topics on November 13 include sessions on forage digestibility and high-forage diets. Breakout sessions will explore these subjects and more; a wide variety of topics from feed additives and fatty acid nutrition to sampling techniques, sugar, amino acids, calf feeding systems, mastitis, mobile technology, and much more. H.J. Baker will sponsor a Wednesday evening session featuring discussion of protein nutrition and using distiller's grains. On Thursday, the breakfast session sponsored by Multimin U.S.A., will explore trace minerals and immunity, and the post-conference, sponsored by Novus International, will examine methionine sources, supplementation, and returns.

Certification exams for ARPAS will be offered, and the conference will be approved for continuing education credits for ARPAS members and veterinarians. In addition, ARPAS members are invited to participate in a special members-only lunch on Wednesday, with a presentation by Jim Ferguson.

In addition to the educational sessions, we offer a trade show featuring approximately 50 companies that serve the nutrition industry. Register by Friday, November 7 by calling Extension Registration Support at 1-877-489-1398 (Toll-Free), or online at <http://extension.psu.edu/events>.



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