

Swine producers make better use of manure

NEWARK, Del. — Swine producers are showing more interest in manure as a production resource than as a waste material these days.

In the past, many didn't fully utilize the nutrient value of their herd's manure, says Richard Fowler, Extension livestock specialist at the University of Delaware. Producers simply hauled manure out to their fields to "get rid of it" and applied the same commercial

fertilizer treatments to these fields as to those not spread with manure.

Because of the rising cost of commercial fertilizers, however, more growers want to make better use of the fertilizer value of swine manure.

In a farrow-to-finish operation, the entire herd generates about 300 gallons of manure per pig marketed. The nutrients con-

tained in this manure are approximately 14 pounds of nitrogen, 8 pounds of P₂O₅ equivalent and 6 pounds of K₂O equivalent. These values assume the animals were fed a common corn-soybean ration.

Fowler says the final nutrient value of the manure placed on the land is the result of several management factors, including the manure collection system, storage

and dilution system, length of storage, temperature during storage, land application technique and present fertility of the land where it is applied.

Several storage options are available to farmers to keep manure nutrient values high. Storing manure as a slurry is the most commonly used system. This type of storage, a relatively high solids form (4-15 percent solids), provides good nutrient retention plus the advantages of a liquid handling system.

Dry systems use bedding to absorb liquids and can retain nutrients effectively if the manure is kept relatively dry.

Lagoons are generally used when the nutrient value the manure is not a major consideration, such as in large operation on a small land base.

Using the best nutrient-retention system in a totally confined farrow-to-finish operation, a farmer could expect 12 pounds of nitrogen, 8 pounds of P₂O₅ and 6 pounds of K₂O from each pig produced. With current fertilizer prices the value of the primary nutrients in the manure per pig produced is from \$4.50 to \$5, depending upon location and the form of nitrogen used.

The estimated cost of hauling the manure from storage is approximately \$3 per pig produced.

Even discounting the value of organic matter and trace elements of the manure, the specialist says a positive return from good manure management is possible.

Land application techniques also are important in receiving the maximum return from soil spread with swine manure. If possible, manure should be applied on land where soil tests indicate a need for the nutrients.

Swine producers who have been applying manure on the same land for some time should take a soil test to determine the phosphorus level. If the test shows a high phosphorus level, then other fields should be used for spreading.

Swine manure must also be mixed properly and applied evenly to obtain its full nutrient value. Nitrogen can be lost if the manure is not injected or incorporated into the soil.

To obtain the maximum value of manure in a cropping operation, Fowler says to supplement with commercial nitrogen and potassium. Since most swine manure is relatively high in phosphorus, the fertilizer requirement for phosphorus can be supplied with manure and the remaining nitrogen and potassium requirements should be supplied with commercial fertilizer. This will allow more acres to be covered with manure.

Tele-auction talk highlights upcoming sheep conference

YORK — The Tele-auction is an innovative marketing idea which was first used to sell lambs in the Virginias in 1971. The auction is a sale conducted in the normal matter, except no buyer, seller, or animals are actually present before the auctioneer.

At the Eastern Lamb and Wool Marketing Conference at Sheraton Penn State Inn, State College, PA, November 22-24, Lowell Fagen, manager of the Corn-Belt Lamb Tele-auction, will discuss in detail the operation of the CBLT.

Buyers using CBLT are linked to an auctioneer via conference telephone calls. The auctioneer describes the lambs to potential bidders as to weight, sex, breed background, grade and location where they will be assembled for pickup.

Buyers are given a bidding number in advance of the sale to prevent personal identification. Lambs then go to the highest

bidder, who, once he has bought them, arranges to pick them up from various, pre-arranged assembly points in the producer area.

Presentations on alternative lamb marketing practices will be addressed at the conference including local auctions, direct, and electronic marketing.

Factors that determine the value of wool will be discussed, in addition to the pros and cons of marketing wool through cooperatives, pools, or direct sales.

The conference is a first for the eastern U.S. where interested

sheep producers, allied industry groups, land-grant universities and state departments of agriculture have joined to present topics on how to better merchandise both lamb and wool.

It is sponsored by the American Sheep Producers Council and the Eastern Seaboard Sheep Council in cooperation with The Pennsylvania State University, College of Agriculture.

For more information and to enroll for this conference, contact Penn State's Short Course Office, 306 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA, 16802, 814/865-8301.

NPPC profit symposium focuses on efficiency

DES MOINES, Ia. — Five essential elements of feed efficiency will be explored during the annual profit symposium December 1 & 2 at the Des Moines Hyatt House, Des Moines, Iowa. The symposium is sponsored by the National Pork Producers Council in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service and the National Feed Ingredients Association.

"Essential Elements of Efficiency" examines the effects of nutrition, environment, genetics, reproduction, management and health on feed efficiency in the pork production operation.

Jack Rundquist, chairman of the NPPC Research and Education Committee explained that each of the five sections offers producers a chance to better see how every facet of their operation can affect feed efficiency.

Featured speaker at the banquet will be Jim Tunney, "The Man In Charge". Tunney is a nationally recognized NFL referee, educator and speaker.

Pre-registration for the two-day symposium is \$55 per person before November 10. Registration after November 10 is \$75. Lunch is included in the price of registration. Tickets for the evening banquet on December 1 and for breakfast on December 2 are not included in the registration price. The tickets are \$10 for the banquet and \$5 for the breakfast.

Registration materials and programs are available from NPPC's Research and Education Department, P.O. Box 10383, Des Moines, Iowa, or call 515/223-2600.



IF YOU WANT MAXIMUM ECONOMIC YIELDS PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE IMPORTANT MEETINGS

BRUBAKER AGRONOMIC CONSULTING SERVICE will be holding 3 meetings at the following locations:

**TUES., OCT. 27th
LAMPETER
9 A.M. - 11 A.M.
Fire Hall**

**WED., OCT. 28th
WHITE HORSE
9 A.M. - 11 A.M.
Fire Hall**

**THURS., OCT. 29th
LITITZ
9 A.M. - 11 A.M.
Toll Gate Inn**

THE SERVICES COVERED BY THIS PROGRAM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **POPULATION COUNTS**
 - Are my populations sufficient to grow the amount of corn I want?
- **INSECT CHECKS**
 - Do I have good control of stalk borer, corn borer, cutworm?
 - Did my fields stand well this fall?
- **WEEDS CHECKS**
 - Are my fields as clean as they could be?
 - Is there a better herbicide program, than the one I am using?
- **SOIL TESTING**
 - Do you think I should have my soil tested every year?
- **PLANT ANALYSIS**
 - Is plant analysis really worth it?
 - What does it tell me?
- **YIELD CHECKS**
 - Why do I need yield checks?
 - Are hand checks really accurate?
- **LIME-FERTILIZER — RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - Have I been applying the right materials to my fields?
- **FARM MANAGEMENT**
 - Are my field records in order?
 - Are my records accurate and up to date?
 - Why do I need to keep records?

We will be discussing these points and also trying to answer any questions you may have. We are only accepting as many farms as we can handle in the 1982 growing season.

If you are interested in attending one of these meetings at Lampeter, White Horse or Lititz, please call 717-397-2575. Advance notice will be appreciated, but not necessary.