

Manure 'Odor Guidelines': Is The U.S. Far Behind?

Part 1 of 2

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.)—Odor control guidelines: A good thing?

Could be, according to a North Carolina agricultural waste expert who spoke at a special conference on Monday.

Having some sort of odor control guidelines could protect farm enterprises that deal with a major problem — manure — and from possible odor lawsuits from angry neighbors, according to Mike Williams, director of the Animal and Poultry Waste Management Center at North Carolina State University.

Williams spoke to 80 producers

1997), the guidelines actually help preserve the industries that used to be under attack by civic groups and environmental activists — poultry and livestock operations with confinement housing.

Could the same thing happen here?

According to producers and experts that spoke at the conference, unless there is more communication to and education of the public toward ag practices, more lawsuits and regulations are inevitable.

According to a conference coordinator, Leon Ressler, counties such as Lancaster have experienced tremendous growth in human population and animal numbers. Lawsuits over odors have been increasing in many parts



This group action planning session at the conference examined a scenario where a dairy farmer faces complaints from neighbors after installing a liquid manure system. Group coordinator was Norm Conrad, Penn State-Pa. Department of Environmental Protection liaison, center.

'Producers are getting very annoyed and tired of being told by the academic segment that manure is a "valuable resource," said Williams. 'Manure represents, in most cases, a very significant management problem for most producers.'

and agri-industry representatives at a conference, "Nuisance Concerns With Animal Agriculture In the Community: The Case of Odors," on Monday at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland.

According to Williams, in Europe (where odor emission regulations will be standardized by

of the state and country.

In Lancaster alone, in the 1960s there were about 60,000 dairy cows in the county. Today there are 95,000 cows.

In the 1960s there were about 60,000 hogs in Lancaster County. Now there are about 370,000 hogs.

The layer industry has seen a

substantial increase, from thousands in the 1960s to about nine million now.

And more people than ever before making southeastern Pennsylvania rural areas their home.

The same can be said for North Carolina. According to Williams, North Carolina rocketed from 10th in the country in swine production to second. Now, operations total about eight million pigs. In one southeastern North Carolina coun-

ty alone there are 30-40 hogs for every person.

There are 600 million broilers in North Carolina and about 60 million turkeys. Williams indicated that the state may be the number one meat producing state in the country. Those operations generate lots of manure — about 30 million tons per year.

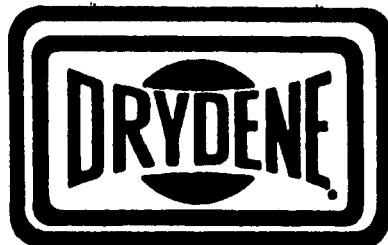
Farmers in North Carolina know about the problems and are tired of the challenges associated with

dealing with manure.

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Indeed. Combined with other states, total U.S. manure production per year from animal agricul-

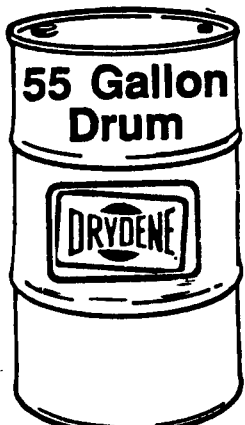
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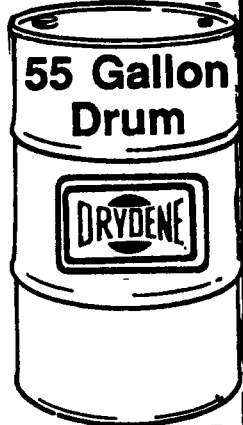
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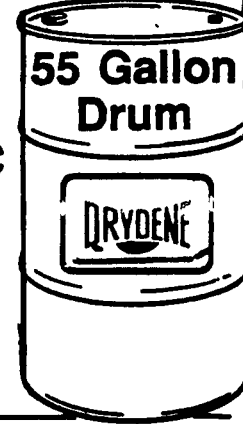
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