

value as a plant nutrient resource providing nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and several trace minerals, but it also improves soil quality by increasing microorganisms and improving soil organic matter, soil tilth, and soil structure. These improvements in soil quality reduce erosion, improve drainage, and increase productivity.

Two different strategies can be employed when applying manure. The conventional strategy is to apply the manure at a rate to meet the nitrogen requirement of the crop. Although this approach maximizes the application rate, it is an inefficient use of the phosphorus and potassium in the manure. Rotating the field to other crops such as legumes without further application can take advantage of the excess phosphorus and potassium. The system is practical when your acreage available for manure application is limited.

In the second strategy, the manure nutrient at the highest concentration sets the manure application rate. For example, if phosphorus was the nutrient at the highest concentration, you would calculate your application rate based on the phosphorus concentration. Nitrogen and potassium would then be supplemented with commercial

fertilizer. This strategy allows for the lowest application rates, maximum recycling of nutrients, and most responsible stewardship of the land.

When you designed your manure storage facility, we hope your storage capacity allows you to make a conscience decision about what season(s) you will apply your manure. The timing of the application influences the nutrient availability and potential movement. Even though spring application allows for the least opportunity for nitrogen losses, there is less time for the break down of the manure (organic decomposition) before the crop can utilize some of the nitrogen found in the organic portion of the manure. Because the short duration allowed for organic decomposition, the peak nitrogen availability may fall behind the peak nitrogen demand of the crop.

Soil compaction can also be a problem with spring applications. Fall application allows for the maximum time for organic decomposition, but this increased time allows for more potential nitrogen loss. To minimize this nitrogen loss, cover crops should be utilized when applying manure in the fall.

Due to the increased chance for leaching, fall application should

be avoided on coarse soils. Winter applications are not recommended. Applying manure to frozen or saturated soil increases the chance of manure runoff and the potential environmental pollution. If manure must be applied on frozen ground, restrict the application to relatively flat land and use land with grass, hay or small grain stubble to prevent as much runoff as possible.

All the knowledge available on manure handling, cropping, and

nutrient management can not all be condensed into a newspaper article. There are a number of books written on each of these subjects and new research is always emerging. It is very easy for a swine producer to be overwhelmed by all the new information.

The National Pork Producer's Council has compiled the latest information into the Environmental Assurance Program. It can help you evaluate your operation and

indicate areas for improvement. The Environmental Assurance Program goes beyond the feeding, cropping, and manure handling we discussed over the past three weeks and encompasses the issue of odor and neighbor and community relations. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Kelli L. Monahan, Nutrient Management Summer Fellow, New Bolton Center, at (610) 444-5800 ext. 2345 to schedule your farm visit.

Registration Forms Available for Public Speaking Contest

SUNBURY (Northumberland Co.) — Zimmerman Motors and Northumberland County Conservation District have announced the start of the second annual public speaking contest, which is open to all students in grades 9 - 12 in the county.

The speech contest is intended to give students an opportunity to research and evaluate issues related to natural resource conservation and management. The topic of the speech can be any environmental or agricultural issue — soil

erosion, nutrient management, water quality, wetlands, wildlife habitat, forestry, pest management, air pollution, etc. — and its purpose can be to inform or to convince the audience. Environmental, social, and economic views may be included in the arguments.

Typewritten manuscripts must be received in the conservation district office no later than Jan. 16, 1998. Oral presentations will be conducted on Feb. 3, 1998.

First, second and third place

finishers will receive \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively, and the winning contestant will present his/her speech at the conservation district's annual awards banquet, March 12.

Students interested in receiving a registration form may contact the Northumberland County Conservation District office at 717-988-4224, or visit Zimmerman Motors, Market St., Sunbury. They may also stop by the conservation district office on Plum Creek Road, Sunbury.



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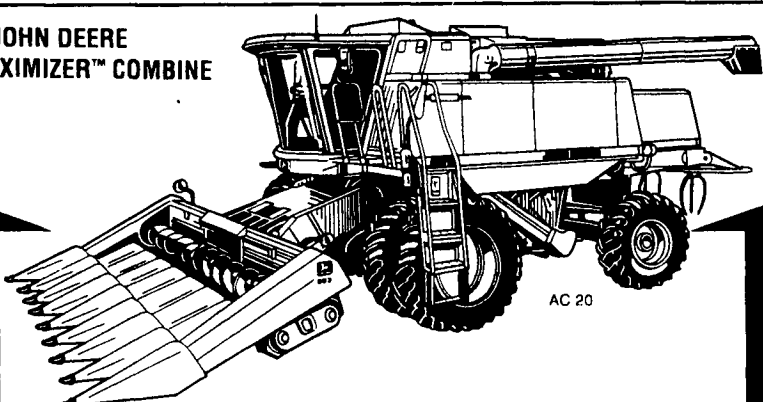
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Oversight Committee

The Oversight Committee will be established for the purpose of reviewing violations to "The National Livestock Show Code of Conduct," or to accompany already existing policies that individual fairs and livestock expositions have in place to recommend appropriate action.

The Oversight Committee shall consist of the following individuals:

- One elected person from the junior division leaders of 4-H or FFA who serve as the chairman of the committee.
- Two members representing the show superintendents of the livestock departments: cattle (beef, dairy), goats (Angora, Cashmere, Meat Boer), equine (donkeys, mules, horses) llamas and specialty animals, poultry, rabbits, sheep and swine. An alternate will replace one of the two elected if the complaint or violation is from that elected superintendent's department.
- One county 4-H leader, one FFA adviser, and one alternate will be elected to the committee.
- Two adult volunteers representing any of the aforementioned departments well as an alternate will be selected to the committee.
- One member representing 4-H, and one member representing FFA will be selected to serve on the committee.
- The president of the fair or livestock show board will also sit on the committee. This individual will serve as an ex-officio, with non-voting status.

A quorum for the Oversight Committee will require nine of the ten members to be present and minutes of the Oversight Committee will be recorded.

Legal counsel for the fair or livestock show will be available for interpretation of any laws or liabilities that may be in question by the Oversight Committee.

Violations of the policies contained within the "National Livestock Show Code of Conduct" will result in the following immediate actions carried out by the Oversight Committee:

1. Exhibitor will be disqualified from the fair or livestock show.
2. Exhibitor will forfeit any awards, premium, or auction proceeds.
3. Exhibitor will be ineligible from further participation in any livestock show in the United States if implicated or found in direct violation.
4. If exhibitor's actions are deemed to be illegal or inhumane, the proper authorities will be notified for further investigation to agencies for possible prosecution and/or civil penalties.
5. The decision of the Oversight Committee will be final!