



Manure Pit Death: A Preventable Tragedy

October 19, 2018

2:30 pm (eastern), 1:30 pm (central), 12:30 pm (mountain), 11:30 am (pacific)

On July 10, 1988, Jerry entered a manure pit on his family's dairy farm. He was swiftly overcome by hydrogen sulfide gas and was found floating unconscious in the manure. He was ambulated to a nearby hospital where the medical staff put his odds of survival at zero. Jerry's wife insisted that he be flown to a larger hospital, where he spent nearly a month in Intensive Care. After more than five weeks in the hospital Jerry was able to return home and resume his farming career. Attendees will learn gain a better understanding of the hazards of manure gases, understand how to protect yourself from manure gases and other hazards when handling manure, and learn the basics of appropriate manure safety protocols. *An application for continuing education credit for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) and members of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) will be submitted.*



Jerry Nelson is a former dairy farmer from Volga, South Dakota. He and his wife, Julie, live on the farm where Jerry's great-grandfather homesteaded 130 years ago. On July 10, 1988, Jerry entered a manure pit on his family's dairy farm and was rendered unconscious by hydrogen sulfide gas. Jerry was rescued from the pit and remained hospitalized for more than a month. He suffered a small amount of brain damage, but was eventually able to return home and resume farming. Jerry currently works as a writer/ ad salesman for a newspaper called the Dairy Star. Email: jerry.n@dairystar.com

Tracey Erickson serves as a SDSU Dairy Extension Field Specialist. Tracey developed a passion for dairy while growing up on a diversified dairy, livestock and crops farm in eastern South Dakota. She continues to be involved with farming today with her husband and in-laws. With a double major in Dairy Production and Manufacturing, as well as a Masters in Human Resource Management, most of her career has been spent serving dairy producers and the agricultural community through SDSU Extension. Phone: 605-882-5140; E-mail: Tracey.Erickson@sdstate.edu



How Do I Participate?

On the day of the webinar, go to www.extension.org/58813 to download the speaker's power point presentations and connect to the virtual meeting room. First time viewers should also follow the steps at: www.extension.org/8924.

For More Information

- Telling the Story Project <http://tellingthestoryproject.org/jerry/>
- Reducing Risks from Manure Storage Agitation Gases <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Reducing-Risks-from-Manure-Storage-Agitation-Gases-P1865.aspx>
- UMASH Farm Safety Check –Manure Gas Safety Checklist <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>
- Non-Enclosed Manure Storage Safety Tips <https://fyi.uwex.edu/agsafety/files/2012/09/Non-enclosed-manure-storage-safety-tips-wi-9.4.12.pdf>
- Preventing deaths of farm workers in manure pits <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/90-103>
- Understanding Manure Storage System Safety Risks <http://igrow.org/livestock/dairy/understanding-manure-storage-system-safety-risks/>