National Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center

LPE Center News

February, 2008 Connecting Experts With Those Advising Producers http://lpe.unl.edu

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February Webcast
"Ethanol Co-Products Impact on Manure Management"

February 15, 2008 at 2:30 pm (EST) More…

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LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

Potential Pharmaceutical Impacts on Water Quality Is the March Webcast Topic

Antibiotics and hormones are commonly used in animal production. March's webcast "Pharmaceutical Compounds and Their Potential Environmental Impacts" will address how these compounds are used, how they work, their positive and negative impacts, and the potential impact of antibiotics, and antibiotic resistant genes on the environment. *Note: This webcast date has changed from previous announcements!!*


Amy Pruden


David Norris

The speakers are David Norris, University of Colorado; Amy Pruden, Colorado State University; and Paul Ebner, Purdue University. For more information about this webcast, view the webcast flyer at: http://lpe.unl.edu/pdfs/08marflyer.pdf.


Paul Ebner

Date/time: Friday, March 28, 2008 at 2:30 pm (eastern); 1:30 pm (central); 12:30 pm (mountain) and 11:30 am (pacific).

How to participate: See the steps at http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast5.html.

What's Going On in the LPE Learning Center?

LPE Learning Center To Be Part of the National Launch of eXtension

The Ag Outlook Forum, February 20-22 in Alexandria, Virginia, will be the official "ribbon cutting" for the National eXtension (pronounced e-extension) Initiative. The LPE Learning Center will be one of several eXtension communities of practice presenting information on innovative methods of connecting experts with audiences who put that knowledge into practice.

The eXtension initiative currently offers content dairy cattle, horses, and cotton in addition to family and community resources. The new LPE Learning Center website will join that list in March. For more information about the eXtension, see http://www.extension.org or http://about.extension.org.

National Resources

2008 Value Added Producer Grants Can Assist With Manure Marketing

Many manure treatment technologies are evaluated for their potential to reduce odors or move nutrients out of the system. Many technologies also have the potential to generate marketable products, such as compost or to generate energy, such as biogas.

The process of evaluating potential markets for these products is critical, but not always done thoroughly. Even if markets exist, traditional lenders may be reluctant to lend money for new or unproven ventures.

The USDA Value-Added Producer Grant program is designed to assist ag producers with these obstacles for value-added business ventures. The program is part of the Rural Development program. In 2007, 162 recipients were awarded over $22 million to implement innovative projects.

Grants may be used for planning activities and for working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

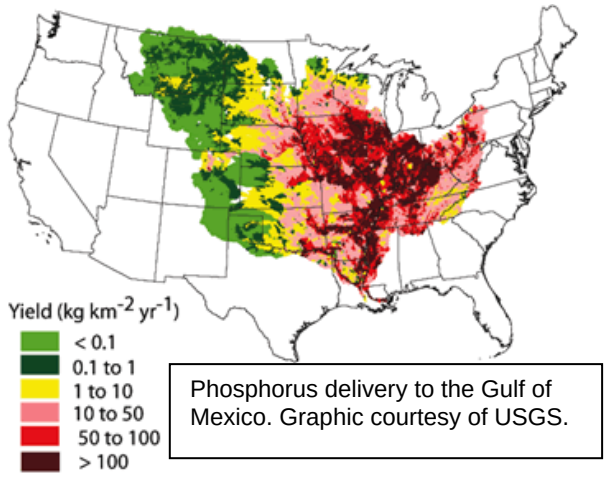
The deadline for submitting 2008 grant proposals in March 31. To locate local Rural Development office, view success stories, or begin the application process, go to http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm

Spotlight On…

USGS Releases Findings on the Sources of Nitrogen and Phosphorus in the Gulf of Mexico

US Geological Survey (USGS) researchers have recently published findings on nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) sources and transport to the Gulf of Mexico.

The study also found that a relatively small land area in the watershed (nine states) accounted for 75% of the N and P delivered to the Gulf.



Phosphorus delivery to the Gulf of Mexico. Graphic courtesy of USGS.

The results of the study show that, according to the model, agricultural sources in the watershed contribute more than 70% of the N and P that reaches the Gulf. Corn and soybean cropping is the largest contributor of N (52%), followed by atmospheric deposition sources (16%).

Phosphorus sources were primarily animal manure on pasture and rangelands (37%), followed by corn and soybeans (25%), other crops (18%), and urban sources (12%).

For the full text of the article, FAQs, links to related information, and more go to: http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/sparrow/gulf_findings/

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