



# Livestock & Poultry Environmental Learning Center News

Connecting Experts With Those Advising Animal Producers

May, 2010

<http://www.extension.org/animal+manure+management>

## Looking Forward to the June Webcast

### Clearing the Air: Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Animal Ag

Some publications and media commentary have identified livestock production as a leading source of greenhouse gases. In the June 11th webcast, Frank Mitloehner from UC Davis will counter information presented in *Livestock's Long Shadow*, a widely read and referenced book, that implicated consumption of red meat and other animal products as a primary contributor to climate change. [Read more...](#) | [Go right to the flyer....](#)



## New Page on the LPE Learning Center Website

### Preferential Flow of Manure in Tile Drainage

Liquid animal manure is a valuable source of nutrients and organic matter for crop production. Because of relatively low nutrient concentration, it may be applied at relatively high volumes, but it is generally recommended that it not be applied at rates that exceed the soil infiltration...[More...](#)

## National Resources

### Public Relations, Energy On Farms, Funding Opportunities, Soil Erosion Trends

PR Tools for Farms. Why is the media & public relations important for farmers? There is an unprecedented level of interest from the public in knowing where their food comes from and farmers and ranchers have a great opportunity to tell their stories effectively. The National Sustainable Ag Coalition has developed a toolkit to assist in this process. [More...](#)

On-Farm Energy Survey. USDA will begin conducting the first national On-Farm Energy Production Survey in May, 2010. The most recent agriculture census counted more than 20,000 farms and ranches that were producing renewable energy via solar panels, wind turbines and methane digesters. This spring's survey will further explore how this energy is generated and used. [More...](#)

USDA NRCS Funding Opportunities. Farmers and Ranchers in 29 states are eligible to apply for funding to conduct energy audit evaluations for their operations. [More...](#) NRCS is also seeking applicants for the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI). Individual producers are not eligible to apply, but can receive financial, technical and other assistance by working with cooperatives or other eligible partners. [More...](#)

National Resources Inventory. Soil erosion on cropland declined by more than 40 percent during the past 25 years, while more than one-third of all development of U.S. land occurred during the same period. The



information was contained in the latest National Resource Inventory (NRI) for Non-Federal Lands. [More...](#)

## Spotlight On:

### Grazing Animals, Weeds, Water, and Wildlife



**Cows and Creeks.** The location of the cattle in relation to creeks or other sources of water is a topic of much interest. It has been assumed that cattle in pasture-based systems are large contributors to the levels of sediment, nutrients and pathogens found in surface water. Iowa State researchers studied the habits of grazing animals and developed several practical recommendations. [Archived webcast](#) | [Read the entire article](#)

**Less Weeds=More Cows.** A weed calculator developed by an ARS scientist tells ranchers the number of additional cows they could raise if they eliminated one or two widespread exotic invasive weeds. [More...](#)

**Management For the Birds....and Cattle.** Cattle share high desert rangelands with sage-grouse who depend on sagebrush and the grasses growing beneath these shrubs for food and nesting areas. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has added the species as a candidate for Endangered Species Act protection. If the sage-grouse is listed, this would increase scrutiny of management practices on rangelands. USDA ARS researchers studied the grazing habits of cattle and developed some recommendations to help cattle and sage-grouse to coexist. [More...](#)

## Events and Announcements

### May Webcast, FPPC Summit, NRCS is 75, Visit the LPELC Community

**May Webcast Reminder: Mortality Composting.** Learn more about composting animal mortalities, feedstocks, cold climate management, and in-house composting of catastrophic poultry mortalities. The webcast will be on May 14, 2010 at 2:30 pm (eastern). [More...](#) | Share your thoughts, experiences, & recommended resources at the LPELC community [discussion forum](#)



**USDA NRCS is 75.** Happy Birthday to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, which is celebrating its 75th year in protecting our natural resources. [More...](#)

**FPPC Summit.** Farm Pilot Project Coordination, Inc. is hosting its second regional summit on June 14-16th, 2010 in Des Moines, Iowa. Building on the success of the regional summit in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, this conference will focus on issues of the mid-west. The theme will be the challenges of reducing nutrient load from the agricultural community in the Mississippi River watershed as well as creating sustainability in agriculture. [More...](#)

**LPELC Community & Blog.** As always, there is much more going in the world of animal ag and environment than can fit in the newsletter. To see more, visit the [LPELC Community](#). If you set up a profile, you can also add your own interesting, newsworthy, or even funny items to the blog.

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