

## Science Behind Environmental Policy Field Day, Lyon County

Beef producers are dedicated to protecting Iowa's environment and want to provide good information to the public and policy makers. Recognizing this, a team of researchers and Extension specialists from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota collaborated in hosting a quad-state field day showcasing research to promote environmentally sustainable and economically feasible practices for improved air and water quality in beef facilities. The field day was attended by state and federal legislators, state policy makers and stakeholders representing Extension and university specialists. Lyon County 4-H Council members assisted in the smooth transition from one place to another.

Mogler Farms by Lester showcased a study funded by the Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University. They demonstrated that a relatively inexpensive pumping and distribution system can effectively transfer settled feedlot effluent from a medium-sized open feedlot to an infiltration/distribution area. Brian Mogler, manager of Mogler Farms, wishes to provide practical and common sense approaches to nutrient management that make both economical and environmental sense for open feedlots. This method can reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and bacteria from open feedlots to Iowa surface waters, a win-win for the producer and the public.

John Fluit, Jr. and his wife, Anita, owners of Fluit Feedyard near Inwood, hope the research on their feedlot using a Vegetative Infiltration Basin (VIB) and Vegetative Treatment Area (VTA) will help their friends and neighbors. These systems can provide a cost effective option for feedlot runoff control that allows the producer to close off the basin outlet and temporarily detain runoff. The system is valuable to any producer and the public as it eliminates unsightly and odorous runoff storage basins, plus the VTA provides habitat for birds and mammals.



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“I’m looking forward to the data findings from the research being done here in Northwest Iowa. We are proud of what our area beef producers do and the organizations they seek to protect our water resources. This information will be useful in committee meetings.”  
~ Representative Jeff Smith (R-Spirit Lake)

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Family operated Triple V Farms is part of a two-year USDA-funded study gathering baseline data for gases and dust emitted from mono-slope beef barns and evaluating two manure handling systems (deep bedded pack and weekly scrape). Recent EPA regulations require the livestock and poultry industry to comply with federal air quality regulations, even though there is no generally agreed upon air emission estimates from these facilities. In response, a National Air Emissions Monitoring Study (NAEMS) was funded by the federal government but did not include deep-bedded beef production facilities. This study will provide valuable data for producers to effectively manage their deep-bedded beef facilities for minimal emissions, enhancing air quality in their community.

Enthusiasm for research efforts was proclaimed by the legislators. They questioned when the results of the air emissions study would be available, how they could support continued efforts in alternative technologies to enhance water quality and indicated they will use the field day data in their committees.

**For more information about the Science Behind Environmental Policy field day, contact:**  
Dr. Beth Doran, Extension Beef Program Specialist, [doranb@iastate.edu](mailto:doranb@iastate.edu) . [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu)

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