

MANAGING MANURE



By Karl Czymmek and Quirine Ketterings

Professional manure application

It is not often that the word professional and manure are used in the same sentence. For most of farming history, manure has been recognized as an important source of nutrients.

Then, in the 20th century, as mined and manufactured nutrients became widely available, the importance of managing manure as a nutrient source seemed to diminish.

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This Manager issue from PRO-DAIRY focuses on managing manure.

Over the last 20 years or so, we have been frequently reminded that we need to be more aware of how we use and recycle manure to improve results both on and off the farm.

Too much manure at any time, but especially at the wrong time can result in significant environmental impact.

We also know that in terms of phosphorus, what is an inconsequential per acre loss to a farmer, when many acres are considered, can have greatly negative impacts in streams and lakes.

To avoid issues with manure and nutrient runoff and leaching, the dairy industry needs to do a better job overall with manure application decisions, especially when it comes to winter time.

Many producers have are doing an excellent job already. They apply manure thoughtfully and have enough storage to avoid application in poor conditions.

They watch the weather and soil for optimal conditions to spread, their crew and equipment are poised to take advantage of the best conditions whenever they

occur, and they use application methods such as injection, that minimize offsite movement of manure.

In this issue, we review some of the practices that the best producers are using to manage manure, including having adequate storage, and using satellite manure storage, drag hose equipment, grass injectors, manure storage covers and optical sensors for nitrogen.

We encourage every dairy producer to evaluate their own resources to see where improvements can be made. Professional manure managers apply manure strategically and responsibly; there is room for more producers to be among them.

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Save the date!

Register at <http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/>

Milk Quality Program

In collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell PRO-DAIRY and Quality Milk Production Services. This program will be offered statewide at five sites from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm on Jan 8, Feb 5, and March 5, 2015. Cost is \$100 per person, which includes the 3-day program and lunch. It also includes one bedding and bulk tank sample per farm. Register with the regional site.

Operations Managers Conference

In collaboration with Northeast Dairy Producers Association. This conference provides an opportunity to increase management and operations skills and time to network with other managers. Sessions will be followed by a tour.

■ January 20 - 21, Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY

Herd Health and Nutrition Conference

In collaboration with Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance. This conference is attended by nearly 300 agriservice professionals, feed industry representatives, veterinarians and dairy producers.

■ March 17, Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY

■ March 19, Essex Resort and Spa, Essex Junction, VT

The Manager, a special section prepared by PRO-DAIRY specialists appears in DairyBusiness East four times a year. In keeping with the PRO-DAIRY mission, The Manager helps strengthen the management skills of dairy producers and increase the profitability of the dairy industry. PRO-DAIRY, an educational program begun in 1988, is a joint venture of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Northeast agriservice organizations. For reprints of PRO-DAIRY's The Manager, contact Heather Darrow, 272 Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Phone: 607.255.4478 Email: hh96@cornell.edu