

SPREADING LOG

The Professional Nutrient Applicators Association of Wisconsin Newsletter

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Combining Manure Application and Planting

Several farmers have been asking about some research at Michigan State University (MSU) that combines summer manure application with seeding cover crops or forages. Below is a brief summary of the project. We are not aware of anyone who has tried this yet in Wisconsin.

By Jordan Barnes

A new process for manure application has been created at MSU with significant benefits. The process-manure slurry-enriched seeding-combines aeration tillage, manure application and the seeding of forage or cover crops in one operation.

“Slurry seeding involves mixing seed in the slurry tank and passing the seed-laden slurry through a rotating chopper/distributor and then through drop tubes to the fractured and loosened soil behind each set of rolling tines,” MSU's Tim Harrigan says.

Slurry seeding of forage turnips, forage rape, oats, and other forages in wheat stubble is an effective alternative to extend the grazing season. In their research, they also found that the combination of no-till and slurry seeding was more effective than frost seeding of red clover and orchard grass in bromegrass sod.

“Graze a pasture down tight and slurry seed in mid-August,” Harrigan recommends. “Do not graze the pasture in the fall after the seed/slurry application. Also, if possible, harvest the first cutting during the following spring as hay or manage the pasture carefully to prevent preferential grazing of new growth.”

This article is from the May 2009 issue of The Scoop.

http://animalagteam.anr.msu.edu/Portals/0/2009_03MayScoop.pdf

2009 Upper Midwest Manure Expo

Mark your calendars for July 22, 2009 for the Upper Midwest Manure Expo. The theme of this year's event is S.E.T. for Fall (Safety, Efficiency, Technology). Co-sponsored by the Iowa Commercial Nutrient Applicators Association and ISU Extension, the event will be held at the Ag Expo Center near Boone, IA. More than 50 vendors will be exhibiting and demonstrating their manure handling equipment this year.

Details are included with this newsletter and on the Expo web site: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/expo_home.htm

The 2010 Expo will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Applicator Association.

Road Weight Testing Enters Wisconsin Testing Phase

The road weight research project (joint with the MN, IA, and OH/IN Associations and the state DOTs in IA, MN, and IL) will be doing the TeckScan tire pressure measurements later this summer at a farm in Western Wisconsin. The Association extends a special thank you to Sundstrom's Pit Pumping for coordinating the on-site logistics. The regular testing will take place later this summer at the Albertville, MN test track.

Manure Incident Research Project

To help clarify mis-conceptions about the actual causes of accidental manure spills and incidents, PNAAW and UW-Extension have jointly created an internship for a college student to review the DNR files of all spills and incidents that have occurred since January 1, 2005 and try to determine the actual cause of the problem (mechanical failure, operator error, mis-management, act of God, etc). Eric Ronk of Denmark, WI (a Dairy Science student at UW-Madison) has been hard at work since mid-May reviewing the files. Later this summer, he will begin calling the farmer and/or the applicator to get their perspective on the incident. The summary data (with names removed) will be published in this newsletter and guide the educational aspects of the association certification program.

Communicating During Times of Emergency, Crisis, etc.

John M. Shutske, UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

In my past position in Minnesota, I did a great deal of work with various teams of people who looked in detail at the issues of communicating during times of tremendous uncertainty (post 9/11, flooding events, anthrax attacks, food borne illness outbreaks, etc).

Here are a few "Best Practices" in risk and crisis communication that evolved as part of several projects and efforts over time (including a major project I was involved with the School of Public Health and Center for Public Health Preparedness).

Communicate with compassion, concern and empathy

- This enhances credibility and perceived legitimacy.

Listen to public's concerns and understand audience

- Respond to the public's beliefs whether or not they are accurate.
- Monitor a full range of communication formats: hotlines, letters to the editor, radio talk shows, public forums, blogs, etc.

Collaborate and coordinate with credible sources

- Establish strategic relationships and networks before a crisis.
- Identify subject area experts.

Meet the needs of media and remain accessible

- Recognize that the media is the primary channel to the public.
- Participate in media training.
- Remember that the media is not the enemy.

Foster partnerships with the public

- Identify your "publics."
- Build positive relationships with key publics before a crisis occurs.
- Publics could include farm groups, agencies, etc.

Conduct pre-event planning

- Address existing, emerging and anticipated issues
- Determine how to reduce risk, plan an initial response, update regularly.

Recognize that risk and crisis communication is an ongoing process

- Incorporate risk communication into the policy development process.
- Continuously evaluate and update crisis communication plans.

