



ANIMAL MANURE MANAGEMENT

Meeting the Challenge

The Animal Manure Management (AMM) team teaches operators and employees of animal feeding operations (AFOs) and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) about manure management for agronomic efficiency and environmental protection. They host programs on manure nutrient management addressing feeding routines, manure handling techniques, assessing the risks of phosphorus runoff, nutrient management planning tools, and soil management and conservation. The team educates on the value of manure relative to commercial fertilizer. The team develops and demonstrates vegetative treatment system (VTS) technology for AFOs and those advising producers. They have developed a cost-benefit analysis spreadsheet for dust and odor control and assisted with the development of the National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool.



- UNL Extension's Animal Manure Management team hosted the annual 2011 North American Manure Expo, where approximately 1250 people from at least 12 states and six countries were in attendance to learn about new equipment and professional manure management techniques.
- At the Expo, manure industry professionals improved their understanding of animal manure land application for nutrient management and environmental quality. This represents approximately 1.7 million acres of cropland, 1 million swine, 1 million beef cattle, and 19,000 dairy animals.
- There were 47 educational sessions and demonstrations provided during the Expo. Attendees reported a high degree of learning (average 3.7 out of 5) averaged across all sessions from the educational sessions/demonstrations.
- Also, 75% of those at the education sessions at the Expo indicated they left with an idea that they planned to implement on their operation.
- Based on new cost data aggregated in 2011, the potential value of VTS technology to the cattle industry in Nebraska is \$216 million in cost savings over conventional runoff containment systems.

Extension's Impact

“Outstanding joint effort to develop and disseminate a cost effective, common sense technology (VTS) to help producers solve water quality related issues. “ – Nebraska Stakeholder

Public Value

Public funding supports the AMM program which helps animal producers minimize the air and water quality risks of livestock manure and utilize manure for sustainable crop production while maintaining or improving the environment and enhancing competitiveness. Manure has environmental benefits when properly utilized. It improves soil quality which reduces erosion and enhances crop yield. It also reduces the use of one of the largest energy costs of farming—commercial fertilizer. The state of Nebraska benefits from a safer water supply due to decreased risk of contamination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL UNL EXTENSION OFFICE, [HTTP://WWW.EXTENSION.UNL.EDU](http://www.extension.unl.edu) OR LESLIE JOHNSON, 402-584-3818 FOR THIS EXTENSION INITIATIVE



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.