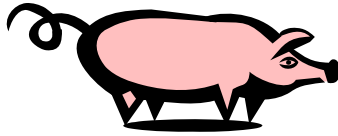


PigTales

Environmental Management FAQs for Pork Producers



Topics addressed in this issue include:

- *Pesticide/insecticide usage*
- *House cleaning/biosecurity*
- *Waste management*
- *Miscellaneous information*
- *Farmer suggestions*
- *Reimbursement ideas*

Because pork producers raised questions about various environmental topics during site visits, DPPEA developed PigTales to answer those questions, and provide facts and information to pilot participants. Feel free to let us know if you have any questions or comments about the information below. Contact Jamie Ragan at 919-715-6519 or jamie.ragan@ncmail.net.

******* PESTICIDE/INSECTICIDE USAGE INFORMATION *******

Q. How do I properly dispose of pesticide containers?

A. Many North Carolina counties have a pesticide container-recycling program, with different sights where farmers can drop off empty pesticide containers. A company picks up the containers and recycles them into new plastic products.

All containers should be triple-rinsed or pressure-washed. The rinsate should be added to the spray tank so all the pesticide is used for its intended purpose. *(Rinsate is defined as "...recovered sedimentation, wash water, contaminated precipitation or other contaminated debris.")*

Active Programs:

Alexander	Clay	Halifax	NC A&T	Stokes
Alleghany	Cleveland	Harnett	New Hanover	Surry
Ashe	Columbus	Haywood	Northampton	Swain
Avery	Cumberland	Hertford	Onslow	Transylvania
Beaufort	Currituck	Hoke	Pamlico	Tyrrell
Bladen	Davidson	Hyde	Pasquotank	Union
Brunswick	Davie	Iredell	Pender	Vance
Buncombe	Duplin	Jackson	Perquimans	Wake

(cont'd)

PigTales

Environmental Management FAQs for Pork Producers

Cabarrus	Durham	Johnston	Person	Warren
Caldwell	Edgecombe	Lee	Pitt	Washington
Camden	Forsyth	Macon	Richmond	Watauga
Catawba	Franklin	Martin	Robeson	Wayne
Chatham	Gates	McDowell	Rockingham	Wilkes
Cherokee	Granville	Mitchell	Rowan	Wilson
Chowan	Greene	Montgomery	Scotland	Yadkin
	Guilford	Moore	Stanly	Yancey

More Information can be found at:

<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/fooddrug/pesticide/recycle.htm>

Q. What are the requirements for pesticide storage?

A. NCDA requires pesticides be stored according to label directions (temperature requirements) in an area that is dry, ventilated and protected from unauthorized access, especially from children. Pesticides cannot be stored with food or feed products, medicine or vet supplies.



Q. Do I need a pesticide license to use pesticides on my farm?

A. A license is needed to apply "Restricted Use Pesticides" only (ex. Dyston, Atrazine). This information is found on the label. Pesticides not restricted (ex. Sevin) do not require a license. A commercial pesticide license is also required if you are spraying a chemical and getting paid to do so.



Q. What is Prolate and how should I use it?

A. The most commonly used Prolate is Phosmet, an insecticide used for mange and louse control. It's a hot organophosphate product and should always be used with caution. Safer products, such as Amitraz (Taktic) are available; it is sprayed directly onto the hog. Another choice is Ivermectin, which also acts as a wormer. It is administered by feeding it to the pigs.

PigTales

Environmental Management

FAQs for Pork Producers

***** HOUSE CLEANING/BIOSECURITY INFORMATION*****

Q. Is it really necessary for me to clean the hog houses?

A. Yes, cleaning the entire barn including floors, ceilings and walls is important for several reasons:

- Vital for proper working conditions
- Reduces dust which carries odors as it moves in wind or air streams
- Reduces risk of spreading disease
- Improves pigs' performance
- Maintains biosecurity
- Improves air quality

In areas where wires are exposed, it may be necessary to cut off power while the room is empty and spray it down with water, along with a disinfectant (such as Clorox).

You should be able to obtain the most appropriate method for cleaning and disinfecting your houses from your integrator. However, the following link describes one method for pressure washing your house:

<http://www.thepigsite.com/stockstds/Default.asp?display=37>

If you need more information on how to properly clean and disinfect your houses, we can supply you with that information.



Q. How do I control spiders?



A. Spider webs can be removed with a tree limb or small whole tree. Black Jack Oaks are excellent for this procedure. Removal of webs is important and should be followed by a surface treatment to kill adult and spiderlings, which are left behind. Use Temp (cyfluthrin) or Permethrin for this treatment. A consistent effort that includes web removal by washing or sweeping, followed by surface spray between farrowing and nursery groups will eventually reduce the overall spider problem. The same approach should be used in other buildings where the interval may be longer between groups, however it may take longer to obtain manageable levels of spiders. Spider activity will decline through the winter, and start strong again in the spring. Early season cleanings and treatments will be effective.

PigTales

Environmental Management FAQs for Pork Producers

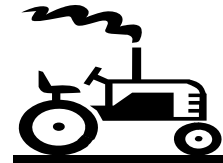
Q. What are the rules pertaining to incineration of dead pigs?

A. Incineration of pigs falls under county health department rules and NCDA Vet Division rules. Dead animals must be disposed of one to two days after death. Generally farms may wait a day in the summer, or longer (one to two days) in the winter for nursery pigs, but larger hogs should be burned daily. Afterbirth can also be burned. Some people may freeze small batches until they accumulate enough to justify running the incinerator.

******* WASTE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION *******

NOTE: Any information taken from the NPDES or General Permit is current as of Sept. 14, 2004. However, please note that the General Permit is effective until Oct. 1, 2004 and the NPDES is effective from the date of issuance until July 1, 2007.

Q. Who is allowed to spray waste on my farm?



A. NPDES states:

"In accordance with 15A NCAC 8F .0203(b)(2), the **Operator in Charge (OIC)** or a **designated back-up OIC** of a Type A Animal Waste Management System shall inspect, or a **person under the supervision of an OIC or designated back-up OIC** shall inspect, the land application site as often as necessary to insure that the animal waste is land applied in accordance with the CAWMP. In no case shall the time between inspections be more than 120 minutes during the application of waste. A record of each inspection shall be recorded on forms supplied by, or approved by, the Division and shall include the date, time, spray field number and name of the operator for each inspection."

General Permit states:

"The Permittee shall designate a certified animal waste management system operator to be in charge of the animal waste management system. The animal waste management system **shall be operated by the OIC or person under the OIC's supervision.**"

Q. Do I have to do a sludge survey?

A. The N.C. NRCS Conservation Practice Standard for Waste Treatment Lagoons (Code 359-1) requires proper operation and maintenance of lagoons.



PigTales

Environmental Management FAQs for Pork Producers

Specifically, the standard states: "After five years the waste treatment lagoon shall be checked for sludge accumulation and annually thereafter. If sludge has encroached into the treatment volume, the sludge will be removed and applied at agronomic rates, based on analysis of the sludge. Treatment volume must have a minimum of 4 feet depth free of sludge at all times."

NPDES states:

"All facilities, which are issued a *COC* to operate under this permit, shall conduct a survey of the sludge accumulation in all lagoons within one (1) year of receiving the *COC* and every year thereafter. This survey shall include but not be limited to a sketch showing the depth of sludge in the various locations within each lagoon. This survey shall be submitted as part of the facility's annual report in the year it was conducted. This survey frequency may be reduced if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Division that the rate of sludge accumulation does not warrant an annual survey."

Q. How do I conduct a sludge survey?

A. The N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation created a handbook for conducting a sludge survey. You can contact either your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office or DPPEA to obtain a copy of the Sludge Survey Methods handbook.

Below is one example of a tool used for measuring sludge depth. Many retailers sell *The Sludge Judge*. You can contact your local SWCD or Extension Service to find out more.

Sludge Judge® II



The Sludge Judge® II is made from a 1-1/4" outside diameter plastic tubing resulting in double the capacity and a very rigid unit when assembled. It holds 6 oz. per foot and can be assembled according to the requirements of the job. Add or subtract sections as needed, and the 1 ft. markers on the tubing will help identify both the depth of the tank and the amount of sludge on the bottom. The unit is made up of three 5 ft. sections (top, extension, bottom) or as individual sections. A special size cleaning brush is also available.

http://www.geneq.com/catalog/en/sludge_judge_2.htm

PigTales

Environmental Management FAQs for Pork Producers

Q. Do I have to calibrate my irrigation equipment?

A. NPDES states:

"All waste application equipment must be tested and calibrated at least once per year. The results must be documented on forms provided by, or approved by, the Division [of Water Quality]."

You can refer to N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Irrigation Equipment Calibration Procedures for a variety of irrigation system calibration procedures.

The web address is:

<http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/manure/calibration.html>

However, if you have trouble accessing the web address, please contact us and we will send you a hard copy.

Q. How often do I record my lagoon levels and rainfall records?



A. NPDES notes that lagoon level records should be kept weekly, and rainfall events should be documented daily.

Q. How does an automatic pump cut off work?

A. The cut offs work by measuring pressure. If the pressure drops, such as in the case of a broken hose, then it will cut off the pump.

***** MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION *****

Q. Do I have a septic tank permits on my farm?

A. Permits were mandated in 1982. For more information about rules, laws, and amendments, both current and past, see:

<http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/oww/Rulelaw/rules.htm>

PigTales

Environmental Management FAQs for Pork Producers

Q. What is an AUSTREE?

A. An Austree is a particular tree variety with many beneficial uses for pilot farmers. It is known for being a fast growing shade tree—sometimes as much as ten feet the first year.

Possible benefits to a hog farmer:

- *Windbreak*
- *Privacy around spray fields or houses*
- *Nutrient uptake*
- *Farm beautification*



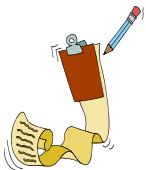
If you would like more information, contact us and we will send you a copy of the brochure.

Q. What can I do with used motor oil?



A. The county solid waste department should have collection barrels for used motor oil; however, many auto parts stores will recycle it. The recycled oil is cleaned and used again as engine oil, or can be used for heating oil. Several commercial burner models use old motor oil as a fuel source if you are interested in this method on your farm.

Refer to: <http://www.cleanburn.com/faq.cfm> to view a series of frequently asked questions, and to see manufacturer's information.



GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FROM PILOT FARMERS:

- Turn feeder off the day before transporting pigs (nursery pigs...15-18 hrs) to eliminate excess feed (pigs will show no signs of stress after six hours without feed).
- Cup waterers incorporated with a nipple waterer system can dramatically reduce the amount of fresh water used on site, protect slates in pen, reduce energy usage, save money and reduce lagoon loading.

PigTales

Environmental Management FAQs for Pork Producers

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT IDEAS GENERATED BY PILOT FARMERS:

*DPPEA prior approval is required **before** any purchases are made.*

- Meters on wells to monitor water usage
- Weather stations
- Computer/laptop
- Underground irrigation lines
- Firebox (to keep records safe)
- Computer software for record keeping
- Incinerator
- Nipple watering system instead of trough
- Grading work around farm/lagoon
- Laptop projector for hog farm educational presentations
- Purchase new diesel fuel tanks, change location and put a retaining wall around tanks
- Certified operators' cost
- Erosion control
- Cup waterers (accompanies nipple waterers)

