



PigTales

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U.S.D.A. Grant Will Help Develop and Market Hog Waste Byproducts

In June, the U.S.D.A. awarded a \$375,000 Conservation Innovation Grant to N.C. State University to help fund a project aimed at developing and marketing hog waste byproducts. The U.S.D.A. grants fund projects designed to promote cutting-edge technologies and help producers' bottom line.



The grant will be matched with funds from a collaboration of partners led by Environmental Defense and Frontline Farmers, and includes the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the N.C. Department of Transportation.

This project to find a use for hog waste byproducts could help make innovative hog waste management technologies more economically feasible for hog producers. Already state transportation officials have agreed to take compost from one treatment process to use as erosion control for road construction projects and for wildflower beds along highways.

Being able to market hog waste byproducts as fertilizer, compost and soil additives may be the first step in acceptance of and implementation of new technologies by hog producers.

CAFO Water Permit Application Deadline Extended Until July 2007

Concentrated animal feeding operations were granted additional time to seek water permit coverage and implement nutrient management plans as required by EPA's 2003 CAFO rule. Under a final rule, facilities newly defined as CAFOs have until July 31, 2007 to seek National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit coverage. CAFOs will

also have until July 31, 2007 to implement NMPs.

The 2003 rule required newly defined CAFOs to seek NPDES permit coverage by Feb. 13, 2006 and for all CAFOs to have NMPs in place by Dec. 31, 2006. EPA will be revising the 2003 rule in response to a federal court decision. Because of changes, EPA extended the deadlines.



For additional information on the extension of CAFO compliance dates rulemaking, go to: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/afo/caforulechanges.cfm#dates>.

It's Not Too Late to Register!

N.C. DPPEA will be conducting two workshops on Aug. 16, 2006 to discuss the results of the Pork Environmental Management System Pilot Project.

The morning workshop, "EPA-OCEA Pilot Farmer EMS Final Meeting," is for the pilot project participants. The project results will be discussed followed by a round table discussion for the producers.

The afternoon workshop, "EPA - OECA Pork Grant Train-the-Trainer Meeting," is geared toward technical assistance providers and regulators who are interested in learning more about EMS and the pilot project.

If you are interested in learning more about the workshops or if you would like to attend, please refer to <http://www.p2pays.org/iso/pork.asp>.

Keep Facilities Dry Inside Out

Mold is not only a concern for homeowners, it also affects hog facilities. When moisture gets trapped inside walls or ceilings, mold or other problems can develop. It is key to ensure that ventilation is properly installed and working.



Other tips include:

- ❏ Make sure animal manure and urine can't collect in floors or in hallways for extended periods of time.
- ❏ Regularly check for and repair leaky waterers, pipes and valves throughout the building.
- ❏ Ensure employees are properly trained on operating and maintaining high-pressure washers.
- ❏ Drain surface water away from building's exterior.
- ❏ Ensure drains leading to storage are properly sized, located and managed.
- ❏ Caulk around doors, walls, windows, exhaust ventilation fans, air inlets and ceiling joints to seal leaks.

For a full listing of tips, please refer to *Pork* magazine's June 2006 issue.



University of Illinois Researcher Makes Crude Oil from Pig Manure

Pig manure may now be considered black gold because of work done by University of Illinois researchers.

A UI professor and his team are the first to successfully turn swine manure into crude oil. This could be the answer the pork industry is looking for – what to do with hog waste. It could also be the answer America is looking for – how to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

The real breakthrough for the UI researchers is the design of a more efficient process: a continuous reactor. Instead of converting hog waste one batch at a time, a method to feed waste continuously into a reactor was created, which is essentially an industrial-strength pressurized oven.

The next phase of the plan is to move from the lab to a full-sized pilot reactor on a farm. It is predicted the process could get 3.6 gallons of crude oil a day out of each pig. Illinois brings some 7.2 million hogs to market each year and nationwide the industry is about 100-million hogs strong.

Momentum Builds For Legislation Exempting CAFOs From Superfund

A House bill to exempt concentrated animal feeding operations from the Superfund law is gaining momentum, with more than a hundred co-sponsors signing on and the possibility of a companion bill in the Senate.



The bill, introduced last fall by Rep. Ralph Hall (R-TX), would exempt CAFOs from both cleanup and reporting requirements under Superfund. It comes amid several pending lawsuits by state and local governments seeking to hold the industry liable for water pollution due to animal waste used as fertilizers.

The bill has rapidly been generating House member support over the past few weeks and it now has 126 co-sponsors. A congressional source says Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), a strong supporter of the legislation, may introduce a similar bill in the Senate.

Hoop Houses Are Thought To Be More Environmentally Friendly



Researchers believe that an innovative structure for housing hogs could

help reduce the odor and water contamination that has come with the growth of swine operations in the eastern part of North Carolina.

Almost 200 farmers, researchers, environmentalists and local and state officials attended the dedication of a hooped hog house operation in May at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems at the Cherry Research Farm near Goldsboro.

State officials are working to come up with a way to make the hog industry more environmentally friendly, but a method that is economically feasible for the farmers has not yet been identified.

The barns are similar to greenhouses, with a polyvinyl opaque covering over large hoops supported by treated posts and board walls. Hoop houses are cheap to build and the cost of production per hog is lower according to researchers.

Another advantage is that the manure is more naturally dispersed when the house is cleaned, creating less disruption to the environment. The knee-deep bedding helps turn the waste material into compost faster, and it has less effect on water quality.

Disadvantages are that the system requires more labor to handle the bedding and that large quantities of bedding material is needed year-round. Another is poor feed efficiency in extreme temperatures, according to early test results.

Officials said the system still needs more testing to see how durable and how reliable it would be in the long run, but it looks promising.

Photo from Iowa State University's Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Web site <http://www.abe.iastate.edu/hoop%5Fstructures/>.

Comment Deadline Extended for EPA Proposed Rule for CAFO Regulations

The EPA has extended the comment period deadline until Aug. 29 for its proposed rule that would revise several parts of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Effluent Limitation Guidelines for CAFOs.

The proposed rule revision is in response to an order issued by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York last year when it ruled that those regulations weren't adequately protecting the nation's waters from farm animal manure.

The rule would require only CAFOs that discharge or propose to discharge apply for a permit, leaving it up to the farmers to decide if one is needed. If the only discharge from the farm is storm water, then no NPDES permit will be needed.

The rule further proposes greater public participation in the permit process by requiring CAFOs to submit a facility nutrient management plan. Following a review by permitting authorities, the public would be allowed to review and comment on the plan.

Lastly, the EPA is proposing to remove the 100-year, 24-hour storm containment structure standard for new CAFOs and replacing it with a zero discharge requirement.

For more information about EPA's proposal or to find out how to comment on it, go to <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/afo/aforule.cfm>.



PigTales is an online publication of the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. For more information call (919) 715-6500 or (800) 763-0136, or write to DPPEA, 1639 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1639.

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