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March/April 2003

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## If I cry out, will someone help?

*Bob Aherin, Extension Ag. Safety Specialist, Dept. of Ag. Engineering, University of Illinois, 1304 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Urbana, IL 61801, 217-333-9417, [raa@age.uiuc.edu](mailto:raa@age.uiuc.edu)*

Living on a farm or rural community can make access to an ambulance or other rescue services more challenging. We often assume that if help is needed, someone will be able to find us and offer the help needed. Here are some things you should think about to be better prepared in the event of an emergency:

- Each phone should have emergency information posted near it. This should include emergency phone numbers, directions to your farm from the town or location rescue services would be responding from. This should be the township and section you are in.
- Write out where your hazardous substances such as pesticides, fertilizers, fuels etc are located so that it can be made available to rescue or fire personnel if needed.
- Everyone on the farm who is old enough should know where the electrical and gas controls and shut off valves are located.
- If an accident occurs those calling rescuers for help must provide critical information to help rescuers be prepared when they arrive at the scene of the accident. This includes:
  - The exact location of the accident.
  - The condition of the injured person including any general health conditions such as allergies, being a diabetic etc.

What is involved in the accident such as a tractor rollover, grain entrapment, chemical spill, chemical spill, electrocution, etc.?

## Illinois Wheat Association

<http://www.illinoiswheat.org>

Producers increased winter wheat planted acreage last fall for the first time in several years. Folks obviously responded to higher wheat prices. Wheat profitability has shifted upward after years of low prices and disappointing exports. Perhaps the currency imbalances that caused those problems have finally been resolved. A summer wheat field day in Northern Illinois is being planned so look for upcoming announcements. With the recent development of premium programs for specific types of wheat in northern Illinois producers may want to join the Illinois Wheat Association to keep informed of new research and marketing information through the newsletter and forums. The IWA recently hired a new manager, Jim Quinton, [executivedirector@illinoiswheat.org](mailto:executivedirector@illinoiswheat.org), who would welcome an opportunity to work more with wheat producers in Northern Illinois. Contact Allan Aves of Kirkland, 815-522-3836 who serves on the IWA Board, for information and proposals regarding the Association or contact the Illinois Wheat Association, 1221 N 16th Street, Murphysboro, IL 62966.

## Illinois Hay and Straw Directory

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/markets/hay/>

This directory is designed for Illinois producers to list hay/straw available for sale. The site is searchable to find sources of hay close to you. Click on "List and Ad" to advertise that you have hay available for sale. Illinois hay dealers and individual producers can now find suppliers or advertise hay and straw on-line on the Illinois Dept of Agriculture's Illinois Hay and Straw website for no charge. For listing information contact: Jerry Millburg, Illinois Dept of Ag, Box 1928, Springfield, IL 62791.  
Ph: 217 782 4925, email: [jmillburg@agr.state.il.us](mailto:jmillburg@agr.state.il.us)

### Rural Route 2 Available at 1-800-468-1834

<http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/ruralroute/>



The Rural Route 2 service is designed to help farm families get through tough times. This confidential service helps locate local support; and identifies assistance through the Illinois Farm Development Authority.

## I-Inform: An On-line, Searchable U of IL Extension Calendar

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/cie2/offices/calendar.cfm>

Were you interested in only agricultural programs or perhaps a horticulture program? Did the winter blues set in, get out of the house and attend another excellent Extension agriculture program close to you! The new I-Inform Extension Calendar can help you locate Extension programs by topic, date or location. Simply go to the website and fill in the requested options for searching, to find what programs are being offered and how to register for them. Keep in mind that your local Extension Unit can help you find specific information about those programs in surrounding counties.

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## Evaluating Winter Wheat Stands

*Ellen Phillips, Extension Educator — Crop Systems, Countryside Extension Center, 6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL 60525, 708-352-0109, [ephillips@uiuc.edu](mailto:ephillips@uiuc.edu)*

The very cold weather and lack of snow cover can make winter survival difficult for our wheat and alfalfa crops. Here are some guidelines to consider when deciding whether the crop should be abandoned. Optimum plant population is considered to be 25 to 30 healthy plants per square foot. For best yields, the minimum plant population needed depends on the plant health. For plants in poor to fair condition there should be 15 plants per square foot. If plants appear to be in fair to good condition, then only 12 plants per square foot would be needed. For a more accurate yield estimate consider counting tillers per square. A minimum of 40 tillers per square foot is needed to consider keeping a stand. For more information on managing wheat crops, check out the Small Grains Chapter, in the Illinois Agronomy Handbook. To order a copy, call the Publications office at (800) 345-6087.

# Research Results

## Bags May Beat Towers For Forage Storage

*Katie Weber, College of Ag. Life Sci. Press Service, University of Wisconsin (608) 262-1461.*

Farmers can save on initial costs plus up to \$10,000 a year, while greatly reducing the risks from falls and silage gas. As anyone who has driven across rural Wisconsin can tell you, tower silos are one of the most prominent features on the landscape. Up to 100 feet high, these domed towers are the traditional method of storing forage to feed livestock during the winter. In recent years, however, huge plastic "sausages" have sprouted throughout farm country. The sausages are bag silos or silage bags, a new way to store feed for livestock. In terms of cost, safety and feed quality, silage bags—long, plastic tubes tightly packed with chopped forage—may be a better choice for farmers, according to one University of Wisconsin-Madison expert.

"For both initial investment and annual costs, silage bags save farmers money—up to \$150,000 initially and \$10,000 per year for a 220-cow herd—over using tower silos or bunkers," says Gunnar Josefsson, a farmer health and safety expert with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. "Farmers can talk to their county extension agent to find out what the savings would be for their farm. And, in addition to saving money, silage bags greatly reduce the danger of falls and exposure to silage gas."

Safety is an important issue when it comes to storing silage. In Wisconsin, an average of three people die each year in accidents from silage handling—about 10 percent of total farm fatalities—and more are injured. The chief causes of injury or death are related to tower silos: falling from high elevations and exposure to gas from fermenting forage. Bags, at about six to nine feet tall, pose little risk of falls. And, although silage in bags still produces toxic gas, the farmer does not need to enter a confined space. Most Wisconsin farms use tower silos, but bags are becoming increasingly popular: Josefsson estimates that almost half of farmers use bags, even if not on a regular basis. "When farmers expand their operations, bags are often the best choice because the

silage bag system can be tailored to any size herd. With bunkers and towers, if you don't have enough cows to consume the feed at a certain rate, there can be spoilage from contact with the air."

However, a temporary solution often becomes a permanent fixture: bottom-line cost analysis makes it clear that bags are advantageous at any scale of operation. "Farmers have to purchase bags each year, and some of the costs of silos, such as the initial investment, are hidden because they are included in a mortgage." Josefsson explains. "However, bags are not included in property taxes as silos are, and you can always sell your equipment for bagging—but you can't sell a bunker or tower, and it adds very little to a property's sale value."

Bagging also offers options for farmers other than purchasing the equipment outright. Some farmers share the equipment with one or more neighbors, while others rent the equipment from a dealer or hire an operator to bag their forage. However, Josefsson says that it is hard to generalize what option is most cost-effective, as it depends on the farmer's specific circumstances. Another benefit of bagging is that, if the silage is managed well, using bags can improve feed quality and reduce spoilage, Josefsson adds. With towers or bunkers, farmers must use the feed in a certain order. However farmers can access feed in bags from either end, and can mark which sections contain high-quality feed so that it can be given to top-producing cows.

According to Josefsson, one of the problems with using bags is disposing of the plastic afterwards. Some landfills may not accept bulk plastic, or accept it only with an extra charge. One common practice is to burn the used plastic, but burning is illegal and bad for the environment. "Farmers are really looking for an improved way to properly and legally dispose of waste plastic," Josefsson says. Already, one manufacturer plans to begin accepting and recycling used bags later this year, and Josefsson predicts that the industry, under pressure from farmers, will begin absorbing the cost. Another potential solution is for farmers to bale their plastic and store it until it can be transported to a landfill or recycling plant.



# Latest New-Age Health Supplements: Garlic, Kale And Beets?

*Madeline Fisher, College of Ag. Life Sci. Press Service, Univ. of Wis., (608) 262-1461*

With so many people using over-the-counter herbal supplements as a means to promote health, one UW-Madison researcher is wondering why we don't hunt for health-promoting properties among the ordinary plants we grow for food. According to Kirk Parkin, a food scientist at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, "There's no reason to believe that exotic botanicals are the only plants that have specific, health-promoting benefits. Domesticated plants do, as well." That's why Parkin has launched a research program aimed at uncovering the healthful properties, such as cancer prevention, of the decidedly unglamorous crop plants cultivated here in Wisconsin, such as garlic, kale, beets, corn and green beans. Not only do common vegetables carry a lower price tag and a safety record spanning thousands of years, but they also contribute to Wisconsin's economy.

The popularity of exotic herbal supplements with names like echinacea, feverfew, goldenseal and valerian has soared. So have concerns about their effectiveness and safety. Last year, the Food and Drug Administration alerted consumers to the possible liver-damaging effects of kava, a popular herb for relieving anxiety and insomnia. The Secretary of Health and Human Services recently urged mandatory warning labels for the stimulant ephedra. And doctors have begun cautioning about the risks of using herbal supplements in combination with prescription drugs and immediately before surgery.

On the other hand, in a study published in the September 2002 issue of the *Journal of Food Science*, Parkin's research group demonstrated that everyday vegetables might indeed play a role in human health beyond simple nutrition. Using a well-known *in vitro* technique for screening possible cancer-preventive agents, they showed that crude vegetable extracts triggered increases in protective proteins, called phase II enzymes. Phase II enzymes work in concert with another group of proteins, called phase I enzymes, to detoxify cancer-causing agents in the liver and other organs, and purge them from the body. Due to these

activities, high levels of both sets of proteins — but especially phase II enzymes — are thought to help protect against cancer.

Among the vegetable extracts they tested, an extract of sweet corn showed the greatest effect, causing a 13-fold jump in enzyme levels. Kale extract raised the enzymes eight-fold, snap beans increased them five-fold and beets two-fold. "Our results suggest that commonly consumed vegetables contain components that can elevate phase II enzymes *in vitro*, and have the potential to be used as dietary sources of cancer chemopreventive agents," says Parkin. Many of the extracts also showed pronounced antioxidant activities.

But aren't people already receiving these benefits by eating their veggies? Probably not to the extent they could. In its last dietary assessment of the U.S. food supply, the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that although Americans ate an average of 20 percent more vegetables in 1996 than in 1970, just three types accounted for half of all servings: head lettuce, canned tomatoes, and potatoes, including chips and french fries. Another 15 percent of servings came from dehydrated potatoes, fresh tomatoes, garlic and carrots.

To entice people into eating a wider variety of plant foods, Parkin believes scientists need to continue to pinpoint the health benefits of eating specific vegetables. "The USDA has been advocating all along that eating a diversity of fruits and vegetables in copious quantities will promote health, and I'm convinced it will," he says. "But I think if you simply tell the public that eating vegetables is good for them, you don't get much of a response. To change eating habits, you need to give a specific reason why eating certain vegetables will benefit them."

Research such as Parkin's could also lead to new vegetable-based dietary supplements for the staunchly veggie-phobic. Parkin cautions that his research group still has much work to do toward characterizing the specific compounds in vegetables that carry cancer-protective effects, and demonstrating a true health benefit for people. Still, he's convinced that today's neglected, humdrum plant foods could be an important part of tomorrow's preventive medicine.



## New Trap Kills House Flies

*Jim Core, ARS News Service, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, (301) 504-1619, jcore@ars.usda.gov.*

A new trap invented by Agricultural Research Service scientists attracts kills and retains the bodies of houseflies, offering a promising alternative for fly control in areas where food products are stored or prepared. Indoor flies are a potential health hazard to humans because they can transfer numerous disease organisms by just walking across exposed foods. Using chemical pesticides against them is risky if the chemicals are applied near food. And most flytraps have been designed for use either outdoors, or indoors in agricultural settings.

Now scientists Jerome A. Hogsette and David A. Carlson at the ARS Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology in Gainesville, Florida have designed a new trap that overcomes those problems. Dubbed "Flybrella" by Carlson, the trap resembles an upside-down umbrella. It can also be used to capture other flying insects, according to Hogsette, a research entomologist with the center's Mosquito and Fly Research Unit.

Flybrella lures flies by taking advantage of their natural attraction to selected chemical odors and to vertically hanging objects. After entering the trap, flies eat the poisonous bait. Dying flies fall inside a tube and into an inverted plastic cone attached beneath. The trap has a removable cylindrical body, a toxicant panel and an insect collector. It is designed to contain the dead flies and conceal them from sight. Flybrella hangs from a hook or is attached by ties to electrical cables or other vertical surfaces approximately six feet from the floor.

Two Flybrellas captured 98 percent of flies released in laboratory studies. The trap would be ideal for supermarkets, restaurants and any store where food is prepared or kept. Flybrella is safe and inexpensive to produce. It uses the QuickStrike toxicant strip Hogsette helped develop for agricultural use in the early 1990s. QuickStrike has been very successful at controlling flies in poultry facilities. One of its ingredients is Muscalure, a sex attractant discovered by Carlson and widely used in commercial fly baits.



## Genome Sequencing Completed For Major Dairy Cattle Microbe

USDA and University of Minnesota scientists have sequenced the genome of the bacterium that causes Johne's disease, a devastating ailment of dairy cattle and other ruminants. A chronic and potentially fatal intestinal disorder that brings about severe diarrhea and weight loss in infected cattle, Johne's Disease is found in 8 percent of beef herds and 22 percent of dairy herds in the U.S. "This major research breakthrough could speed the development of new ways to detect and ultimately eliminate Johne's disease," said Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics JOSEPH JEN, who chairs the U.S. Interagency Working Group on Domestic Animal Genomics. The genome sequencing was achieved at two locations: the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Animal Disease Center in Ames, IA.



## Resources to Consider

### **Publications Plus** -*University of Illinois Agricultural and Horticultural Publications*

*Call 1-800-345-6087 or order on the web  
[www.PublicationsPlus.uiuc.edu](http://www.PublicationsPlus.uiuc.edu)*

It's a one-stop shop for a current catalog of research-based information (Mastercard and VISA accepted)

### **WEEDSOFT Software**

*<http://weedsoft.unl.edu>*

WeedSOFT® is a decision support system (DSS) designed to assist growers, consultants, and extension agents in making both proactive and reactive weed management decisions. This comprehensive, and ecologically sound, tool will help farmers in every step of their weed management decision. WeedSOFT® provides you with the treatment information you need according to your specific field conditions while factoring in economic and environmental principles. Whether you are considering early season soil applied treatments, control of mid-season infestations, or comparing treatments requiring additional costs for herbicide resistant crops, WeedSOFT® provides a powerful tool for your weed management decisions. To order, call 402-472-1544; email [weedsoft2@unl.edu](mailto:weedsoft2@unl.edu).

## More Resources

### **Publications Plus — University of Illinois Agricultural and Horticultural Publications**

Call 1-800-345-6087 or order on the web  
[www.PublicationsPlus.uiuc.edu](http://www.PublicationsPlus.uiuc.edu)

It's a one-stop shop for a current catalog of research-based information (Mastercard and VISA accepted)

### **Strip-Till: The Best of Both Worlds**

This publication includes data on yields and economics of this adaptable tillage system. Contact your local Extension office for a copy of this new University of Illinois Extension publication.

### **Strip-Till Tipsheet**

Gives helpful hints to adjust this system to your farm conditions. Contact your local Extension office for a copy of this new University of Illinois Extension publication.

### **The Farm Corporation, NCR-11**

<http://www.mwpsdq.org/ncr11.html>

Written by Neil Harl of Iowa State University and Roger McEowen of Kansas State University, is a basic review of all issues related to organizing a farm business as a corporation. The publication discusses the nature of a corporation and considers some of the advantages and disadvantages of incorporating a family farm. It also discusses the taxation of corporations and tax-option corporations, describes the process of incorporation, and explains how farm corporations operate. Particularly useful elements in the publication include one table that compares farm business organizations and another that presents the statutory provisions applicable to farm corporations in the 13 states of the North Central Region of the U. S.

This publication is available through MWPS. To order, call 800-562-3618; e-mail [mwps@iastate.edu](mailto:mwps@iastate.edu), or visit the catalog section of the MWPS website at <http://www.mwpsdq.org>.

### **Getting Established in Farming**

<http://www.mwpsdq.org/ncr610E.html>

This book focuses on the process of deciding whether or not to farm and how best to get started and established in farming if that is the choice. With its emphasis on the decision-making process, this publication should prove useful to educators, lenders, consultants, and others, as well as to those considering farming as a career. To order, call 800-562-3618; e-mail [mwps@iastate.edu](mailto:mwps@iastate.edu), or visit the catalog section of the MWPS website <http://www.mwpsdq.org/>.

### **Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality and Butcher Waste (NRAES-163)**

<http://www.nraes.org/publications/nraes163.html>

Release in June 2002, this video describes mortality and butcher residual composting — an effective, economical, and environmentally sound alternative to disposal. Operations at seven different farms and institutes are described in this video, which will be useful to dairy and livestock farmers, butchers, producer advisors, extension educators, and others. The video was produced by the Cornell Waste Management Institute.

To order, contact: NRAES, Cooperative Extension, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853-5701; call 607-255-7654; fax 607-254-8770; or e-mail at [nraes@cornell.edu](mailto:nraes@cornell.edu).

### **Investing For Your Future: A Coop Extension System Basic Investing Home Study Course (NRAES-156), 2/2002**

<http://www.nraes.org/publications/nraes156.html>

This publication was developed for those who are new to investing. Eleven units help readers understand how and why to invest, break down the many different types of investing, and review additional helpful topics. Each unit concludes with "action steps"— specific steps that readers can take to apply the course material to their lives. Examples, worksheets, and a glossary are included. To order, contact: NRAES, Coop Extension, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853; call 607-255-7654; fax 607-254-8770; or e-mail [nraes@cornell.edu](mailto:nraes@cornell.edu).

# Internet Resources

## University of Illinois Extension Corn and Soybean Classic Presentations

<http://www.cropsci.uiuc.edu/classic/2003/>

If you could not attend the 2003 Classic's you can now read the presentations at this website.

## USEPA Concentrated Animal Feeding

**Operations** *CAFO Regulations*, p. 492

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/afo/cafofinalrule.cfm>

On December 15 the Environmental Protection Agency issued its new rule on concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO). This website has a copy of this new rule as well as several brochures, one for each specie, that discuss the impacts on each specie. This rule increases the number of CAFOs required to get a permit under the Clean Water Act from 4,500 to 15,500. The rule requires hog, cattle, and poultry operations with more than 1,000 animal units to have nutrient management plans by 12/21/06.

## Value-Enhanced Crops and 2002 University of Illinois Research Results

<http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/value/>

All fact sheets for value-enhanced crops and the searchable database for value-enhanced market locations in Illinois have all been updated for 2003. The findings for the 2002 on-farm value-enhanced research trials are also available on the Value Project website at the On-farm Trial Data tab.

## U.S Soybean Diagnostic Guide

<http://www.psu.missouri.edu/soydoc/>

An on-line diagnostic key where you enter the symptoms you are seeing on the soybean plants and a number of potential causes of those symptoms appear. This site was developed for American Soybean Farmers through a grant from the United Soybean Board in cooperation with The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council.

## 2003 AG COURSES

<http://www.outreach.uiuc.edu>.

Check this site often for the newest listing on courses offered throughout the state or to learn about specific degree programs. You may also call the Academic Outreach office at 1-800-242-1360.

## Air Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations: Current Knowledge, Future Needs

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10586.html>

The National Research Council, part of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering report examines EPA and USDA's ability to govern CAFOs. It outlines numerous areas of concern in the enactment and enforcement of these rules.

## Diagnosing Soil Compaction Using a Penetrometer (soil compaction tester) # UC178

<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/uc178.pdf>

Soil compaction is a serious concern for farmers in Pennsylvania. Soil compaction can easily reduce crop yields by 10 percent, and can lead to water and soil quality degradation due to increased runoff and soil structure destruction. This four-page publication explains how to use a penetrometer, or soil compaction tester, to accurately assess the degree of soil compaction in a field. *Agronomy Facts* 63, released 2002.

## Agricultural Resources And Environmental Indicators

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/arei/arei2001/>

This report identifies trends in land, water, and biological resources and commercial input use, reports on the condition of natural resources used in the agricultural sector, and describes and assesses public policies that affect conservation and environmental quality in agriculture. The report also examines the economic factors that affect resource use and estimates costs and benefits to farmers, consumers, and the government of meeting conservation and environmental goals.

## Commercial Storage of Fruits, Vegetables, and Florist and Nursery Stocks (Agricultural Handbook 66 - AH 66)

<http://www.ba.ars.usda.gov/hb66/>

Fruits and vegetables continue to live after harvest; their sugars, fats and proteins generate heat as they respire. Only proper storage methods can lengthen the shelf life during which they can be transported, marketed and consumed. This handbook includes information on quality characteristics, maturity indices, grading, precooling, retail display, ethylene production and sensitivity, respiration rates, food safety, postharvest pathology and more.

## **New Generation Grain Marketing Contracts**

<http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/agmas/reports/index.html>

The purpose of this research report is to summarize the features of several types of "new generation" grain marketing contracts. Over the last several years, new types of grain marketing contracts have been developed by the grain industry in an attempt to improve the results of the marketing process for farmers. These products use automated pricing rules, discretionary marketing on the part of a professional advisor, options strategies, or some combination of all three; their goal is to achieve a price for the farmer near or above the "average" price offered by the market over a given time. Reports in the farm media suggest interest in new generation contracts has increased rapidly in recent years. This publication describes some of the contracts currently available and, where possible, provides examples of how each would perform in different market conditions.

## **Soil Fertility Influences on Cation Levels in Forages**

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/uwforage/CationLevels.htm>

John Peters and Keith Kelling, University of Wisconsin, Dept. of Soil Science discusses the relationship between soil nutrients and crop quality.

## **Agronomic Considerations for Molds and Mycotoxins in Corn Silage**

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/uwforage/Mycotoxins.htm>

Mike Rankin, Crops and Soils Agent, Fond du Lac County, WI and Craig Grau, Ext. Plant Pathologist, UW-Madison discusses in detail molds and mycotoxins and management practices to prevent them in silage.

## **National Water Quality Program Website**

<http://www.usawaterquality.org>

CSREES National Water Quality Program Web builds upon the 10 Regional Water Quality Websites (accessible from the URL above) that are funded through the National Integrated Water Quality Program (NIWQP). This website offers a unique opportunity to access timely and relevant information about existing water quality programs and activities underway at land-grant universities and other institutions.

## **Farm\*A\*Syst**

<http://www.uwex.edu/farmasyst/>

Farm\*A\*Syst is a partnership between government agencies and private business that enables you to prevent pollution on farms, ranches, and in homes using confidential environmental assessments. Farm\*A\*Syst can help you determine what risks — whether from livestock waste disposal, pesticide management or petroleum storage — could threaten your family's health and financial security. A system of step-by-step fact sheets and worksheets helps you to identify the behaviors and practices that are creating those risks.

## **Home\*A\*Syst**

<http://www.uwex.edu/homeasyst/>

In every home — large or small, new or old, city or country— there are potential risks to your family's health and the environment. Home\*A\*Syst helps you identify these risks and take action. Home\*A\*Syst begins with checklist questions to identify problem areas. When you find potential concerns, Home\*A\*Syst can help you develop an action plan to reduce the risks.

## **Hurry/Haste is Hazardous**

<http://www.age.uiuc.edu/agsafety/hhh.html>

A reminder of how to keep you and your family safe on the farm.

## **Renewable Energy Annual 2001,**

released Nov. 2002

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/solar.renewables/page/rea\\_data/rea\\_sum.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/solar.renewables/page/rea_data/rea_sum.html)

This is the seventh annual report that the Energy Information Administration (EIA) has published on U.S. renewable energy. It covers energy consumption and electricity generation. The renewable energy resources in the report include: biomass (wood, wood waste, municipal solid waste, landfill gas, ethanol, and other waste); geothermal; wind; solar (solar thermal and photovoltaic); and hydropower.

## **Anaerobic Digesters and Methane Production**

<http://www.discoveryfarms.org/methanepubbw.pdf>

This publication discusses the science behind digesters and things to consider before investing in them.

# Educational Opportunities

## University of Illinois Agriculture Events

New programs are being confirmed every day. Keep in touch with your Extension Office for programs addressing the topics that interest you and are offered in your County. To find your counties website go to: <http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/ve/>

## Statewide University of Illinois Extension Calendar Website

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/cie2/offices/calendar.cfm>

To search for programs throughout the state, check out Extension's searchable calendar. Search by location, topic or date to find a program of you interest.

## Livestock Manure Management Conference

March 11, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bloomington  
Leanne Lucas; 217-244-9085; [llucas@uiuc.edu](mailto:llucas@uiuc.edu)

Livestock producers face new Concentrated Animal Feedlot Operations (CAFO) regulations, passed in 2002. But the good news is that there is plenty of research data, management information and financial assistance facts, which will be showcased at the Livestock Manure Management Conference this coming March in Bloomington. This conference, sponsored by the U of IL Dept of Agricultural Engineering, will help producers grapple with the new regulations, as well as address an array of concerns faced by livestock producers in the state of Illinois.

"We're bringing in a number of specialists, as well as experts from out of state," said Ted Funk, coordinator of the LMM Conference. Speakers include:

- Eldon McAfee is an attorney for the Iowa Pork Producers, representing livestock farmers in nuisance litigation.
- Ellen Hanks, a former swine producer from Illinois, will discuss the On-Farm Assessment and Environmental Review project – a free, on-site inspection of livestock production facilities. Hanks now works with America's Clean Water Foundation and Environmental Management Systems.
- Bruce Yurdin, Watershed Manager, Bureau of Water, Illinois EPA, will discuss the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and the new CAFO regulations.

- Mike Ellis U of I professor, will give an overview of research being conducted under C-FAR.
- Paula Hingson, Farm Bill coordinator at the state Natural Resources Conservation Service office, will explain the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP can provide significant financial assistance to producers who are willing to plan and work with agencies on conservation and manure management practices.

A new feature at the conference this year is the "Round-the-Room" session. Each speaker will have an exhibit table to showcase information, so when attendees break for lunch, they will have a chance to talk one-on-one with these speakers. Attendees will also be able to visit the tables of conference exhibitors and different state agencies.

In the afternoon, breakout sessions will give special attention to beef/dairy and swine producers.

- Ken Griswold, a professor at Southern Illinois University, will discuss feedlot runoff control systems for the beef/dairy producers.
- Phil Westerman, professor at North Carolina State University, will speak to swine producers about alternative manure treatment technologies.
- Gary Apgar, professor from SIU, will speak to swine producers about feed management for controlling excretion of nitrogen and phosphorus.

The Livestock Manure Management Conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Center in Bloomington, Illinois on March 11, 2003, from 8 am to 4 pm. Participants are asked to pre-register by March 4. The cost for the conference is \$35. To register, call the U of I College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences marketing and distribution office at 1-800-345-6087. For more information, email Ted Funk at: [funkt@uiuc.edu](mailto:funkt@uiuc.edu).

### AG FACTS

- Forests generate most of the water in the country, providing two-thirds of all the precipitation runoff the water that comes from the sky in the 48 contiguous states. Some 14 percent of all runoff comes from the roughly 190 million acres of our national forests, which take up only 8 percent of the land.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 60 million people in 3,400 communities in 33 states rely on national forests for their drinking water. Millions more depend on state and private forests to facilitate the refilling of aquifers from which they draw their water.

## About the Ag Update Newsletter

The Ag Update Newsletter is a bi-monthly newsletter providing education and research support to the agricultural industry. Current and past issues may be found at the following website <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/agupdate/index.html>

Contact your county Extension office and request to be put on their agricultural mailing list to receive the local agricultural newsletter and notices about upcoming agricultural events near you. To find your counties location, phone and website go to: <http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/ve/>

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