

# What's Going On...?

Compliance    Nutrient Management    Permitting    Engineering    Sampling and Testing    Site Assessment

## It's CPDHE Inspection Season:

The Environmental Ag Program's contractor (Tetrattech) is currently performing facility inspections and will continue into spring. This year they are placing added scrutiny on land application field setbacks, agronomic balance calculations, and field level tracking of wastewater and manure applications. If you get a call requesting an inspection, will you be ready? Here's a list of things to check:



### Check:

- Weekly pond inspection records are readily available.
- You've certified that the SOP was followed each time solids were cleaned from storage structures.
- All runoff from the production area is draining to a lined impoundment or approved vegetative treatment strip.
- Documentation is in the FMP showing that diversion and conveyance structures are designed and maintained to carry the design storm runoff flow.
- Wastewater pond depth markers are marked in 1 foot increments and pond liquid levels are below the marked design storm pump down level.

### Double Check:

- Agronomic balance sheets are complete for each field receiving manure, wastewater, etc.
- Records indicate all wastewater and manure applications, and documentation that equipment was calibrated prior to land application.
- All pond liner certifications are present in the Facility Management Plan (FMP) notebook, and pond embankments are free of significant erosion or deep rooted vegetation.
- Weekly pond inspection records are readily available.



**Is your Facility Management Plan (FMP) up to date?** Time passes and things change. Think back—have you added any fields for land application of manure or wastewater in the last few years? Have you expanded your facility's footprint, increasing the amount of runoff that must be caught? Has process-generated wastewater production increased or decreased? A "yes" answer to any of these questions means an update to the Facility Management Plan is needed. Give us a call to have your plan brought up to speed. You'll be glad you did when the next inspection comes around.

### Benefit of Cover Crops for Animal Feeding Operations:

Cover crops can help CAFOs maintain compliance with their Nutrient Management Plans. For animal feeding operations that are short on land application acreage for manure or wastewater, or dealing with a crop failure that left excess Nitrogen in the soil, cover crops can be used to scavenge Nitrogen and Phosphorus from the soil profile. Cover crops also help conserve soil moisture, improve soil quality, and suppress weeds. Try a cover crop in a small area the first year to get a better feel for how it can fit into your operation.



**Whole Pond Seepage Testing = More Representative Results**

Our solar-powered impoundment seepage testing systems monitor any changes in impoundment liquid levels and provide continuous, real-time updates in a web-based format. Perfected during a multi-year study of irrigation pond seepage rates in the Arkansas River Basin, the system represents the seepage rate of the whole storage structure, making it more representative of actual conditions than core sample or standpipe tests.

If you have a wastewater impoundment, irrigation or recreational pond or lake and you need to know how much water it is losing through the liner, contact us to get a system set up. Results are usually available in less than a month and are certified by a Professional Engineer.



Water control structure being installed on connecting pipe between ponds.

**USDA EQIP Signup Deadline is January 16, 2015**

NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-shares on conservation practices including waste management system improvements, nutrient management, irrigation water management, renewable energy, and other activities that protect and improve water quality and the environment. The deadline to sign up for the next round of EQIP funding is Friday, January 16, 2015. BRINK, Inc. is an NRCS Technical Service Provider (B03-433). We can design your system to NRCS specifications, and oversee installation and final checkout. Call us for all your Technical Service Provider needs.

**Minimize Lagoon Odors by Keeping Solids Out**

Most livestock impoundments are not mechanically aerated, relying instead on mother nature to supply sunlight and wind to keep the surface layer of the pond well-oxygenated. This aerobic layer at the top forms a "cap" over the pond, which helps reduce odor emissions. When runoff or process-generated wastewater enters the pond, mixing occurs and the aerobic cap is disrupted. The new wastewater inflow also brings organic material into the pond, which increases anaerobic digestion. Both of these actions result in stronger odor emissions.

Preventing solids from entering impoundments helps reduce malodorous emissions by reducing organic loading into the pond. Solid separation of runoff is generally accomplished with the use of a solid-settling channel or structure. Using multiple solid settling structures in a series further helps reduce solids entry into ponds, and preserves storage volumes. Solid settling structures should be designed to allow solids to drop out of suspension, and should enable easy equipment access to allow for frequent solids removal.



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