

Upper Wabash Nutrient Management Coalition

Conference Call

October 2, 2009

Participants:

Tim Bailey representing Certified Crop Advisers

Angie Brown, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Lisa Underwood, US Army Corps of Engineers

Greg Nageotte, OH DNR

Larry Antosch, OH Farm Bureau

Laura Walker, Mercer County SWCD (OH)

Alan Stout, Wells County SWCD (IN)

Christa Jones, CTIC

Christa updated the group on efforts to involve additional coalition members.

Introduction of Tim Bailey, and Lisa Underwood.

Laura reviewed needs identified in Mercer County watershed action plan.

Nutrient management issues.

Dairy manure is used on site for the most part.

Swine/hog manure is liquid manure and needs to be trucked economically.

In Mercer County it is economical to truck hog manure (with liquid) approx. 6 miles.

If separate manure from water then can truck to Indy or Toledo.

Can use extruder or filter bed to separate? Is this economical for a single barn? There is a company in Indiana that collects liquid from hogs and runs it thru a municipal WWTP, and sells product.

Laura: With geotextile—still too heavy to haul

Tim: There is hog manure everywhere—should be land applied close to farm.

Laura: depends on concentration of livestock. Six times as many animals in Grand Lake watershed as manure needed for acres cropland.

We could truck all poultry manure out, and still not need commercial fertilizer.

Angie: where is manure being transported? How is it being applied? Is it being over applied?

Alan: Still not economical to transport water. Need to separate it. Can use filter bed like municipal WWT.

Larry: One technique is sludge drying beds. Dewatering—it does work and is a standard technology.

Laura—is that something that we can show producers?

Alan: Composting needs to be working correctly. Can tie up N into organic compounds—less smell.

Larry: opportunity for a demonstration.

Still a problem—manure out of Mercer County—where does it go and how is it applied?

Laura: need to demonstrate that manure can replace commercial fertilizer

Lisa: How would fertilizer dealers feel about replacing their products with manure? Would they be interested in providing manure product?

Tim: dealers see manure as competition—don't see fertilizer manufacturers converting manure to usable forms

Some fertilizer co ops also broker manure. There are some in Indiana

How can you incentivize growers to buy manure? Not subject to same regulation as commercial fertilizers.

Tim: Are all livestock producers working with Nutrient Management Plans?

Laura—no. Some permitted poultry in Mercer. Others too small to be permitted.

Angie. Shocked if all IN side famers were working under CNMPs or NMPs.

Lisa—what's the difference in magnitude—is there a substantially higher number of unregulated manure sources?

Alan: no one is watching unless they have a problem

Tim: commercial fertilizers are easier to deal with than manure—start with soil test—apply nutrients for crop removal

Manure—you don't know exactly what you are putting out there

Growers—how the heck do I get rid of this manure?

Regulations are different in each state—NMPs are much more used. It comes down to regulation.

The majority of growers are not going to get involved unless there is an economic incentive.

There are guidelines in each state as to how much nutrients can be applied. It's difficult to guarantee the nutrient content of manure because it's composting as it's sitting there

Lisa—is there any particular advantage to manure? Organic farming

Alan—NRCS EQIP pays you for applying manure per acre—encourages you to spread it as far as possible

Laura—trial in NE Ohio. Extension office tries to link up grain producers with manure producers.

Larry—how do you distribute nutrients? Brokerage is one option. Need to transport economically. May still have too much.

Business idea to bag and sell manure (AZ example), also Wabash.

Tim: it's happening in other places-municipalities have composters

But—we're talking relatively small hog operators who can't afford digesters/composters

Large producers should be involved in nutrient management plans—what percentage of total?

Larry—Could still have need for disposing/using excess nutrients

The case is transport

Angie: Would be nice to have an inventory

Need slow release of nutrients. Need setbacks. But eventually it gets there—into the stream

200 foot setback of manure on frozen ground study—eventually it gets to stream—commercial fertilizer too

Lisa—is it that we need more land to spread manure? What about the disease factor of hauling manure from one farm to another? That would deter producers from accepting manure

Tim—except maybe grain farmers

Grain farmers are source of acceptance—we need to incentivize them

Alan—if we can run manure thru methane digester—need a small one for small producer—can generate electricity for farm and have stable product.

Larry—research in Ohio—Waterman Farm dairy—still have nutrient rich product at end of process—is it more easily transported?

Tim—could we set up one for several producers to access? @ a co op possibly??

Laura—swine producers concerned about bio-security (would have to have something in place)

City of Celina—project supported by watershed action plan

Angie—work in IN looking to use digesters for energy source

Laura—Wenning Poultry, Ft. Recovery, OH, digester up and running.

Laura—covered ideas for use of funds

Upper Wabash Nutrient Management Funds

1.) Swine Manure Testing & Treatment Research 3,500.00\$

Swine manure poses the largest hurdle to proper nutrient management and redistribution. These funds would pay for basic manure testing to identify management practices that would make proper nutrient management more economical. Also test results would be used for general manure application recommendations to replace commercial fertilizers.

These test would also be used to compare the results of a manure treatment and assess the results of the system marketed to aid in solids separation resulting in manure nutrients concentrated at the bottom of the manure pit. This process may identify a process to generate a liquid manure at the bottom of the pit that contains a significant portion of manure nutrients and is worth hauling greater distances.

Develop economic data, and propose method to develop realistic hauling radius.

2.) Manure Side Dress Equipment 30,000.00\$

Manure application equipment that will allow landowners to side dress standing crops with swine manure. Target application rates of 2,000 to 5,000 gallons per acre. Equipment would be made available to local producers, and be used in planned field days.

3.) Manure Tanker Equipment 15,000.00\$

Develop funds to assist in payment for equipment used to haul liquid manure to suitable crop land and/or export manure out of the watershed. Local businesses have brokered poultry manure for several years, these funds would be used as a seed to encourage the development of a liquid manure brokering network.

Ideas could be applied watershed wide.

Alan: EQIP payments can be used to buy manure equipment.

In OH, funds will go to manure storage first.

Larry—CNMPs are required for EQIP. EQIP pays for the plan to be developed.

But if you don't have enough acres you can't apply for EQIP.

They could contract with a broker. But there's nobody to broker hog manure.

Alan: For cows uses a dry system—beds with straw, saw dust, etc. Some beef producers use liquid system.

Larry—trend now is to keep solids and liquids separate. Depends on size of operation if it's dry or wet.

Post Laura's watershed plan to website.

Adams County IN—incentivizing practices through reduced tax assessment

Greg Nageotte gave update on Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop he attended in New Orleans.

Next meeting—October 16, 2009 at 10:00 AM—will discuss number one proposal from Mercer County