

2013 North American Manure Expo *“Getting It Right – Precision Manure Management”*

When technology responds to research and policy issues regarding nutrient management, amazing advancements can occur. The eleventh annual 2013 North American Manure Expo provided an opportunity to share some of these innovations for “everything nutrient management”.

The largest North American manure education and demonstration event made its Canadian debut on August 21, 2013 at the University of Guelph Arkell (swine, poultry, equine) Research Station. Bordering urban development on the outskirts of Guelph and situated on gravelly sand over top of an aquifer that supplies Guelph’s drinking water, the station provided a location that underlined some of the challenges of manure nutrient management.



“Valuing the Resource” session used dye to demonstrate uniformity and distribution of manure in the soil profile



“Minimizing Compaction” session demonstrated the role of tires in preventing soil compaction.



Over a dozen of each liquid and solid application equipment were demonstrated so that participants could compare the newest technology and features



Brand new technology was unveiled at the Expo with the introduction of the Nuhn Lagoon Crawler

(photo’s courtesy of Rob Meinen U of Wisconsin)

“We counted all the tractors, tanks and spreaders and the value was over \$7,000,000. Add all the pumps and everything else [and] we had \pm \$10,000,000 of equipment in our field,” were comments made by Peter Milton, , manager of research station operations.

Crop Advances: Field Crop Reports

Over 750 producers, equipment manufacturers and dealers, custom applicators, consultants and others involved in some aspect of nutrient application, participated in the event. With the theme “Getting it Right – Precision Manure Management”, visitors had the opportunity to evaluate new equipment features, kick some tires and participate in several education sessions with the goal of leaving for home with at least one new idea.

The event was a combined effort with University of Wisconsin extension, OMAF/MRA, agricultural producer reps., University of Guelph and Manure Manager (Annex Business Media). Manure manager staff carried out the logistics for the event.

This was a significant technology transfer event for the Agriculture Development (ADB) and Environmental Management (EMB) branches of OMAF/MRA. The expo provided an opportunity to combine the agronomy of manure application while providing educational opportunities to mitigate environmental risk. Staff from both branches worked together to provide a program that will offer positive outcomes long after the event. In addition, the development of a working relationship with USDA extension staff will help support cooperative ventures in the future.

One-hour concurrent education sessions in the morning and afternoon provided a variety topics ranging from comparing application systems to minimizing compaction to valuing the nutrients in manure to managing odour. A live spill and cleanup demonstration concluded the day’s events. CCA credits, a short course “the Fundamentals of Planning a Dragline System” and a pre-event tour supplemented the Manure Expo.

Each session of the day was videotaped and an edited version will be on the manure expo website. In additions, video clips taken from the expo will be featured in future extension materials and in nutrient management branch training. Several speakers featured at the expo will be invited to winter meetings to provide follow-up presentations.

The Ontario agricultural community is extremely fortunate to have many leaders in the fields of manure and nutrient management. From equipment manufacturers who work with producers and researchers to design and manufacture equipment that meets a variety of needs; to researchers that strive to understand the pathways for nutrient uptake and loss; to nutrient management consultants and extension staff that help producers put it all together at a farm/field scale.

An example of the impact of technology transfer from the Manure Expo came from the initial unveiling of the Nuhn Lagoon Crawler at Arkell. A customer from California saw a picture on Twitter, pulled off to the side of the road, called Nuhn up and said...”I want one...” Ian Nuhn commented, “that first order came from someone who saw a picture of it at the Manure Expo. The first day it was shown at the Expo was when it was first revealed to the public, it was seen in California, and our customer immediately ordered one. We also sold one right at the Farm Progress Show [the following week].” Over 60 percent participants surveyed stated that attending the Expo will improve their nutrient management practices.

Further information can be found on the North American Manure Expo website:
www.manureexpo.org/

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