



ADAPT Council Industry Newsletter



Vol. V; No. 10

May 10, 2006

In This Issue:

Separating A Better Manure-For hog producers, getting rid of manure can be a big challenge
Local Eating For Global Change
Free Product Development Consultation at FTC
Canada -PEI Agriculture Stewardship Program
Bumper Crop of Solutions for Farming Crisis
Organic Producers Need to Move Toward Real Sustainability
Farmers Get Dynamic
Promoting Good Health by Bringing Farms to the Workplace
Leadership Files #4

Separating A Better Manure-For hog producers, getting rid of manure can be a big challenge

"Many hog producers in the Maritimes have a relatively small land base," said Rick Hoeg of the Atlantic Swine Research Partnership. "Some of the them are facing a pretty significant cost to have the liquid manure hauled away.

With \$15,000 in financial assistance from the P.E.I. ADAPT Council (which administers the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food program in the province for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), Hoeg and a graduate student at Nova Scotia Agricultural College are hoping to provide producers with a more cost-effective option. The Atlantic Swine Research Partnership is a combined effort of hog industry associations in the region, the agricultural college and the Atlantic Veterinary College.

Hoeg explained the two year project will examine geotextile technology designed to separate the solids out of liquid manure. He explained the solid form can be transported easier and can be applied with a conventional manure spreader.

He said the system is similar to one used in industrial settings to separate solids from liquids. There has been some research into livestock applications (mostly in dairy but some that applies to swine) in the United States.

"Hog manure has a relatively small solid content so we have to look at whether it is economically feasible," he explained.

The first year of the project will determine which geotextile bags will work best for hogs and

what additives might help with odour mitigation and separation. He said the plan for the second year is to test the technology on a commercial hog operation.

There are two ways the system could be used. Since many farmers already have liquid manure storage capacity, the separation could be done on the product in storage. The solid manure could be bagged and used when needed.

For farmers that don't currently have such capacity, he said the project will look at the economics of separating the manure directly in the barn. He said the program fits in well with the greenhouse gas mitigation program adopted by the industry a couple of years ago.

"Right now we are just getting started," Hoeg said. "It won't obviously be for every producers but it could improve the bottom line for some people."

He said the bags could be custom made for the size of an individual farm. Hoeg said one of the major items to be looked at is whether the bags can be used in cold weather. Since most of the use so far has been in the southern U.S. states where cold weather is obvious not an issue "producers have to know if they would be able to use it all year round.

Local Eating For Global Change

The foods found in the average North American home has typically traveled at least 1,500 miles. Alisa Smith and James MacKinnon of Vancouver BC refer to this situation as the "SUV diet." About a year ago they chose to confront this unsettling statistic with a simple experiment. For the past year they have only purchased food and drinks coming from within 100 miles of their apartment.

According to Alisa and James, their website, the <http://100milediet.org/home/> struck a deep chord that has attracted world-wide media attention from BBC Worldwide to Utne Reader magazine. They claim that dozens of individuals and grassroots groups have since launched their own 100-Mile Diet adventures.

For more information on how to start a 100 Mile Diet Revolution in your region log on to <http://100milediet.org/home/>

Free Product Development Consultation at FTC

The Charlottetown Food Technology Centre (FTC) provides free preliminary consultation services and FTC will help you source appropriate funding for your food development projects.

The 'Prince Edward Island Food Products Development Fund' will assist Island businesses with projects carried out at the P.E.I. Food Technology Centre.

This fund was established by the Government of Prince Edward Island to encourage PEI companies to develop new products and processes and to develop nutrition labelling using the services of the Food Technology Centre. The Fund contributes 50% of costs to a maximum contribution of \$10,000. With the exception of routine laboratory analysis, most services offered by the Food Technology Centre are eligible for Food Products Development Fund assistance. Support is also available for product development activities carried out at FTC for companies in our neighbouring provinces through the NS, NB, and NL governments.

Contact Yaw Dako, Food Technologist (902-569-7699)

FTC also provides certified organic processing services. Contact Leigh Gao, Food Scientist/Engineer at 902-368-5465.

And FTC can provide solutions in natural products extraction and nutra-ceuticals/ functional foods product development. Contact Ron Skinner, Project Manager, Natural Products Extraction at 902-368-5919.

For further information on our Centre, see: www.gov.pe.ca/ftc
Prince Edward Island Food Technology Centre
101 Belvedere Ave. P.O. Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
Tel: (902) 368-5548; Fax: (902) 368-5549; Email: FTCWEB@gov.pe.ca

Canada -PEI Agriculture Stewardship Program

Under the Canada-P.E.I. Agriculture Stewardship Program, technical support and financial incentives are being offered to encourage producers to voluntarily adopt beneficial management practices (BMPs) that reduce environmental risk and enhance P.E.I.'s soil, water, air and biodiversity resources. A total of 28 beneficial management practices have been identified by governments and industry as important to the long-term health of the environment and the sustainability of the P.E.I. agriculture and agri-food industry. For more information go to www.gov.pe.ca/go/cpeiasp

Bumper Crop of Solutions for Farming Crisis

According to John Campbell, reporter for the Independent Newspaper, participants at a recent seminar hosted by Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario concluded that the crisis at the farm gate could be solved if the average citizen knew more about agriculture, corporate ownership of land and livestock was banned, incentives were offered to encourage young people to become farmers, and a consumer levy was placed on food to stabilize farm incomes. To read the complete article see: <http://www.eastnorthumberland.com/article.php?id=228>

Organic Producers Need to Move Toward Real Sustainability

At a recent workshop on sustainable communities presented by organic farmer, Gary Clausheide, he stated that organic production on the Island needs to move toward more sustainability, similar to the permaculture model. The encyclopedia Wikeipedia describes permaculture as "an ethical design system applicable to food production and land use, as well as community building. It seeks the creation of productive and sustainable ways of living by integrating ecology, landscape, organic gardening, architecture and agroforestry". Clausheide says that a coming energy crisis will make the need for a holistic approach to farming a priority. Interestingly, Clausheide's comments have been supported by a recent study completed by Dr. Ann Clark of the University of Guelph who also says that present organic methods have design flaws, all of which contravene the principles that sustain nature. The study reported that organic agriculture that includes animals comes closest to a sustainable model of agriculture. (To view the study results go to <http://www.organicagcentre.caFriendsE-zines/april2006.html>)

Farmers Get Dynamic

Multiple cropping system helps High Plains growers reduce risk and increase their returns.
By Rhonda Brooks

Farming is anything but predictable. But a system that allows you to adopt multiple cropping sequences and conservation tillage is helping farmers in the northern Great Plains to better manage the volatility in agriculture.

It's called dynamic farming and is centered on a diversified portfolio of a dozen-plus crops with more than 100 possible combinations. Farmers can modify crops quickly in response to sudden changes in market conditions, weather or government policy, explains Jon Hanson, research leader for the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in Mandan, N.D.

The crops are barley, buckwheat, canola, chickpea, corn, crambe, dry bean, dry pea, flax, lentil, proso millet, safflower, soybeans, sorghum, spring wheat, sunflower and winter wheat. Livestock is a recent addition to the system.

For more information see: http://action.farmland.org/site/R?i=1L4wg_BV5JMySqjCKRtIgQ..

Promoting Good Health by Bringing Farms to the Workplace

Dr. Preston Maring of Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Oakland, California, has launched a movement to promote healthy eating by connecting Kaiser Permanente employees and patients with farmers who sell locally grown produce.

Maring started one of the nation's first hospital-based farmers' markets in 2003; since then, more than 25 markets in five states—Hawaii, Georgia, Colorado, California and Oregon—have sprung up at Kaiser Permanente hospitals. AFT's 2007 Farm Policy Campaign includes policy recommendations to promote improved diets and healthy eating.

For more information see the full story at:

<http://www.permanente.net/homepage/kaiser/pages/f40669.html>

Leadership Files #4

In today's environment agricultural leaders need to be sources of credible information. Their knowledge is urgently required by policy makers and citizens to develop sustainable policies and practices.

To effectively develop a consensus among their peers, build alliances, and move the industry ahead in the 21st century, leaders must continually hone their communications skills and management styles.

This section of the newsletter addresses the need for developing effective communications skills and management styles. It offers a suite of ideas and techniques to assist in developing skills and values that today's emerging leaders need. Each newsletter will address a new situation/issue which calls upon specific leadership qualities. Your feedback, submissions and/or suggestions are gratefully appreciated.

Innovation Begins with Self-Renewal

'You must be the change you wish to see in the world.'

Mohandas Gandhi

‘Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it.’ - David Starr Jordan

Demonstrate your understanding of the difference between ‘real’ and ‘ideal.’ Share your vision of the ideal but remain committed to the reality.

Improve the organization by encouraging new initiatives.

Demonstrate your commitment to change by involving new people in discussions.

Explain the rationale and reasons for decisions.

Remove roadblocks to change.

Celebrate change rather than waiting for success.

Place innovators in positions of influence.

Provide training that fosters innovation, new skills and confidence:

(i.e. strategic planning and goal setting, problem solving, decision making, conflict resolution)

Establish measurable goals of performance.

Post your mission statement where everyone can read it.

Celebrate and congratulate new initiatives.

People who continually create roadblocks should be given the opportunity to work elsewhere!

Important contributors to change:

Two-way Communication

Paying attention to both verbal and body language

Collective Working

Enthusiasm

Positive Fung Shui

(i.e. good atmosphere and comfortable environment and supportive culture).