

Topic of the Month

Manure Pit Safety

From: PA Dept. of Agriculture

There is a growing body of evidence that there is a link between the manure pit gas events in Montour County this week, the deaths that occurred in Md earlier this year, and several other unreported close calls that hauler and brokers have had recently.

The common thread seems to be the use of gypsum related materials for bedding in these operations. As you may know, these gypsum products have a fairly high level of sulfur in them which appears to increase the production of hydrogen sulfide under certain circumstances.

NRCS State Engineer Hosea Latshaw has been investigating this since the incident in Montour County earlier this week and is convinced that there is a growing body of evidence that shows that if you bed your livestock with a gypsum based product and this material ends up in a liquid manure pit, then levels of hydrogen sulfide may be significantly elevated. Penn State College of Ag Sciences (Dave Hill) has been involved in these discussions. In addition, the most critical point in the overall handling and spreading process is the initial point of tank agitation when the crust is broken and the manure is agitated. As in Montour, having anyone in and around these tanks at that point in time creates a very significant risk. While other manure gases will displace oxygen and cause suffocation in time, H₂S has toxic properties that significantly damages the lungs and other organs.

Practice News

- Larry Frazier has retired from White Oak Veterinary Clinic. Larry served our business well for years as a maintenance man and technician. We wish Larry and his wife, Fran well.
- Dr. Welch presented a paper at the 2012 AABP Conference in Montreal Canada, outlining the research that we did relating survival after LDA surgery to the blood level of BHB in the blood prior to surgery.
- White Oak Veterinary Clinic will again be hosting veterinary student externs this winter. This is a great learning opportunity for these students as they experience life the a practice setting.
- Many of you have asked about the progress of the oocyte pick up for in vitro fertilization project. We are making significant progress and we expect to be up and running very soon. If you have any specific questions, please ask Dr. Croushore.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn (Dec) (9/28/12) bu	\$7.56
Soybeans(Nov12) bu (9/28/12)	\$16.01
Soybean meal ton (Oct12) (9/28/12)	\$487.00
Cheese(Oct12) (9/28/31)	\$2.05
Class III milk (Sept) Sep28	\$18.98
Class III milk (Oct) Sep28	\$20.86
Class III milk (Nov) Sep28	\$20.83