



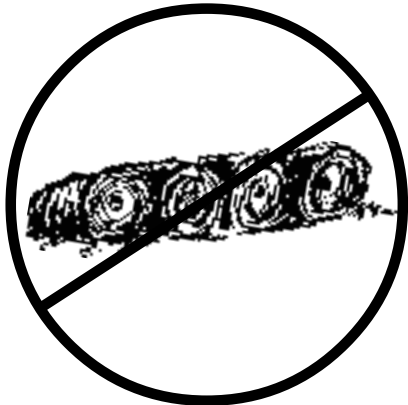
Farm Views

Storage methods to reduce hay losses

As you bring in your round bales for winter storage and feeding, store them to minimize weather losses. Hay stored outside will be damaged by rain, snow, wind and ice this fall and winter. The average round bale loses about one fourth of its original nutrients during storage, but these losses can be reduced to only 10 or 15 percent. Now, I'm sure all of you are better than average, but just in case, let's look at some ways to reduce spoilage by storing hay a little differently this year.

For instance, do you usually line up bales so the twine sides touch each other? Or stack your bales? If so, extra spoilage will occur where these bales touch, because rain, snow and ice will gather in these spots instead of running off. Round bales butted end-to-end, cigar-like, usually have less spoilage.

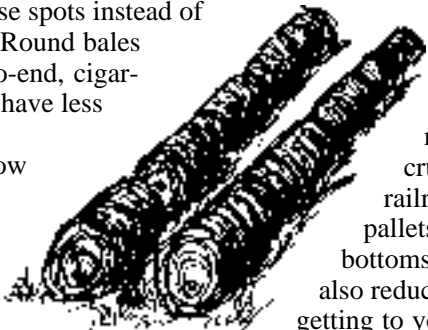
Does snow drift around your bales? Round bales in east-west rows often have drifts on the south side. Hay next to fence lines or trees can get extra snow. And as snow melts, it soaks into the bales or makes the ground muddy. Plus, the north side



never gets any sun so it's slow to dry. This year, line bales up north-and-south to get fewer drifts and to dry more quickly because the sun and our prevailing winds will hit both sides of the row.

Most important is the bottom of your bales. Always put bales on high, well-drained ground so water drains from them. If necessary, use crushed rock, railroad ties, or even pallets to keep the bottoms dry. This will also reduce problems getting to your hay or getting it moved due to snow drifts or mud. Just a little pre-planning can save hay and frustrations.

Source: Dr. Bruce Anderson, Forage Specialist, UNL (TD)



Biosolids cuts production costs and improves yields

Now that harvest activities are over, are you thinking about ways to improve production and cut production costs? You can reduce your out-of-pocket fertilizer costs, improve poor soil and probably see a yield increase next year by using municipal biosolids.

This material is high in organic matter and has all nutrients that are needed by crops to grow. And, the city of Lincoln is paying up to \$.65 per cubic yard for application. If you don't have spreading equipment, you can rent a spreader from the city for a reasonable cost.

Cooperators must have a loader and be able to apply the materials in a timely way. New and continuing biosolids cooperators must return signed paperwork to the extension office for biosolids delivery in 2000, by January 15. Contact Barb Ogg or Dave Smith at the Lancaster County Extension Office for more information about this program. Call 441-7180. (BPO)



Renting facilities

From time to time, people will inquire about establishing a fair rental price for a livestock facility. While the extension office is not in a position to set rental rates or judge what is fair to both parties, there are some guidelines that have been presented by farm management specialists at the university that can be used as a guideline.

For both the owner and tenant, determining a fair rental price for livestock facilities, such as hog barns or feedlots, should include consideration of alternatives available. For example, the owner should consider whether the facility will be in use or sit idle, if not rented. If the owner had planned to use the facility for his or her own operation, annual rent

equal to 18 percent of the current asset value is considered a good rule of thumb. This amount should cover depreciation, interest, normal repairs, taxes and insurance. On the other hand, if the facility will remain idle if not rented, annual rent equal to 10 percent of value may be satisfactory. This generally will cover cash expenses such as repairs, taxes and insurance and the loss of value due to use or depreciation. For example, by using these guidelines, a hog barn valued at \$25,000 would have the rent set between \$2,500 to \$4,500 per year.

The prospective tenant, meanwhile, should consider other alternatives for renting or building facilities. For example,

would the building cost (amortized over the useful life of the facility), plus ownership costs (repairs, taxes and insurance) of building a similar facility be more or less expensive than the rental price? The answers to such questions will help determine if the asking price is reasonable.

Probably the hardest thing to do when using this method is setting a fair market value on the facility in question. Normally, one would expect the value of partially or fully depreciated facilities to be somewhat less than the replacement value. One good approach is to estimate how much the facility would add to the value of the property if the property was sold. (TD)

Changes to waste management regulations announced. Inspection deadline nears.



Regulations on manure management are listed in Title 130 by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). Changes were mandated by LB1209 and LB870 in the last two sessions of the Nebraska Legislature.

The Nebraska Environmental Quality Council met in September 1999 and approved

changes in Title 130 proposed by NDEQ in response to the legislative requirements. One of the important changes is to exempt existing livestock operations with a capacity of 300 animal units or less from the requirement that a DEQ inspection must be requested by January 1, 2000. One animal unit is equivalent to one feedlot steer or heifer and to 2.5 swine weighing 55 pounds or more.

However, any livestock operation with less than 300 animal units is not exempt from inspection and the permitting process, if there has been a confirmed discharge of livestock wastes into waters of the state or the NDEQ has determined that because of conditions at the operation, there is a high potential for discharge into waters of the state, in which case the owner would be notified by certified mail that the operation

is subject to the regulations in the Livestock Waste Management Act.

Any person who has not requested an inspection for a livestock operation after January 1, 2000, except an exempt livestock operation, shall be assessed, except for good cause shown, a late request fee of \$50 for Class I and Class II facilities (up to 500 animal units) and \$500 for Class III and IV facilities (more than 5000 animal units). Each month a violation continues will be a separate offense.

(See articles in previous Neblines newsletters about the Livestock Waste Management Act. "What is LB1209 and does it affect you?" and "Deadline near for requesting free inspection in compliance with the Livestock Waste Management Act" in August and December, 1998 respectively.) (TD)

Crop Protection Clinics

Each year the University of Nebraska Crop Protection Clinics feature practical, economical and environmentally sound management strategies for insect, plant, disease and weed problems in crops. Information presented at individual meetings will vary by location. Clinics scheduled for southeast Nebraska are to be held at these locations on the following dates: Lincoln, January 4; Auburn, January 5; Fremont, January 6 and York, January 11.

The list of topics to be presented at the January 4 Lincoln Crop Protection Clinic includes:

- Low/reduced cost weed management strategies
- Biology and management of Soybean Cyst Nematode
- Seed treatments
- Herbicide resistant crops, "Benefits and Risks"
- Corn disease outlook
- GMO acceptance/issues
- Rootworm resistance
- New products and the 2000 Weed Management Guide
- Weed management decisions
- Fungicide options for crop health management
- Weed management decisions
- Bt corn/GMO
- Label jeopardy
- Recertification wrap-up

For all meetings, registration begins at 8 a.m., with sessions continuing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The \$20 registration fee includes proceedings, publications, refreshments and the noon meal. Advanced registration is not required; however, saves standing in line. (WS)

A REMINDER FOR INTERNET USERS:

Lancaster County Extension Office has a new, shorter home page address: www.lanco.unl.edu
 Some shortcuts:
www.lanco.unl.edu/food
www.lanco.unl.edu/ag
www.lanco.unl.edu/enviro
www.lanco.unl.edu/neblines
www.lanco.unl.edu/hort
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