

## *Are you prepared?*

Recently the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) out of Kansas City has been making random requests for information from NPDES Permit Holders throughout Nebraska. These requests are coming via U.S. mail and are essentially record keeping audits of facilities to verify compliance with the Clean Water Act. The request is mandatory and asks for a copy of all records associated with the Permit. This process is an effort by EPA to ensure Permit Holders are in compliance without conducting an on-site visit.



Here are the items that they are requesting at this time:

- copy of current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) and any addendums
- copies of annual reports/ updates submitted to NDEQ
- all nutrient management calculations, crop projections and manure application projections, soil and manure sample results, and phosphorus-risk assessments on all fields receiving manure
- copies of nutrient analysis provided to recipients of transferred manure/slurry
- manure transfer date, recipients' name and address and approximate amount transferred
- copies of all inspection records required for NPDES

- permit
- monthly account of the number of livestock at the facility
- list of all companies/ individuals that the facility contracted to land apply solid and/or liquid livestock wastes
- copies of all contracts/ agreements relating to land application of solid/liquid livestock wastes generated by the facility.

Should you receive such request and are a subscriber to SCS, our web based compliance service, printing and sending in such information will be simple. If not, call us and we can walk you through the steps and help ensure your submission will meet such permit requirements.

## **NDEQ / EPA comes down on Over-application of Nutrients**

In recent months, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has been more critical of over application of solid manure, slurry, and wastewater by livestock facilities during routine inspections. Last month marked the first case (at least that we are aware) of the **U.S. EPA issuing a \$24,000 fine** to a permitted feedyard for over applying nutrients to cropland. This penalty is substantial and represents a significant change of emphasis by the EPA.

Permit holders must consider all nutrient inputs from manure, waste water, irrigation water, and commercial fertilizer in determining agronomic rates. Failure to consider manure's nutrient value not only reduces the value of the product as it goes out the facility, but cost producers when figuring commercial fertilizer needs.

### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- ◆ EPA requesting information from facilities
- ◆ Over-application of Nutrients
- ◆ Watching the HSUS
- ◆ Updates to Nutrient Management Plans
- ◆ Summer Customer Meetings

## Keeping an eye on HSUS (Drovers news source)

Recently, the Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF) announced the launch of HumaneWatch.org, a watchdog project dedicated to analyzing the activities of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). HumaneWatch will include a database capable of tracking the dozens of nonprofit organizations that make up HSUS's sprawling financial empire. The Humane Society of the United States has become the animal rights industry's most powerful player, but it has avoided serious public scrutiny for years. HSUS raises nearly \$100 million annually from Americans who largely believe their donations filter down to local pet shelters and improve the lives of dogs and cats. But in 2008, less than one-half of one percent of HSUS's budget consisted of grants to actual hands-on "humane societies" that deal with the thankless task of sheltering unwanted pets.

"Someone has to ask the hard questions about the Humane Society of the United States, and HumaneWatch will be a relentless source of useful information," said CCF Director of Research David Martosko. "Nearly 1 million Americans donate money to HSUS every year. And most are completely unaware that they're bankrolling PETA-style propaganda, far-reaching anti-meat campaigns, a huge staff of lawyers, and bloated pension plans for HSUS executives." In 2008 alone, HSUS put more than \$2.5 million into pension plans—money that its own advertising suggested would be put toward the direct care of animals. (HSUS neither operates nor is legally affiliated with, any pet shelters anywhere.)

Martosko continued: "Even the best charities can run off the rails, so it's no surprise the professional dog-watchers need their own watchdog. Donors to the Humane Society of the United States deserve to know exactly how their money is being spent. HumaneWatch will create an open dialogue for farmers, scientists, fashion designers, entertainers, and countless Americans who love both their pets and their ham sandwiches."

## NMP Updates

As a reminder to permit holders, Nutrient Management Plans (NMP's) require updating when either application land is added or subtracted from the plan, or changes are made to the irrigation distribution sites. These updates are required by the permit and usually involve a simple submission to the NDEQ. Prior to making such changes, the plan must be approved by NDEQ. Within the next year, new regulation changes currently proposed by EPA/NDEQ will require a public notice provision where all NMP updates will be required to be public noticed prior to approval. Should you have changes and updates to your plan, please contact Nick at our office to get them accomplished prior to these regulatory changes.

### Upcoming Summer Customer Appreciation Meetings

Come and join us for some fun this summer with trap shooting, golf (Rock Creek Links only) regulation updates, and smoked beef and pork with the fixings.

#### Dates:

Beginning—Mid June (dates to be determined)

#### Locations:

Wilke Hunting Lodge-Stanton  
 Weinreis Hunting Lodge-Minature  
 Rock Creek Links-Raymond  
 North Central (TBD)  
 South Central (TBD)

#### Informational Meeting:

Updates on regulations from NDEQ and EPA along with any other pertinent info



# SETTJE AGRI-SERVICES & ENGINEERING, INC.

**4700 West Rock Creek Rd  
 Raymond, NE 68428-4199**

**Phone: 402-783-2100**

**Fax: 402-783-2104**

**E-mail: [info@settje.com](mailto:info@settje.com)**

**[www.settje.com](http://www.settje.com)**

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*Our team consists of 14 full-time employees, consisting of professional engineers, project managers, agronomists, nutrient management planners, groundwater monitoring specialists and compliance specialists.*

*Our company has production agriculture roots with more than 140 years of combined engineering, agronomy, and regulatory compliance experience.*