

“Herd” about this? or

The Local Saga of a Manure
Dehydrator/Incinerator

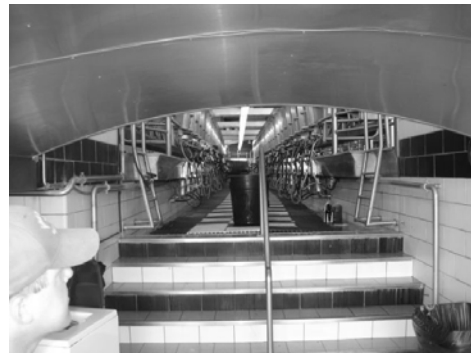
The Site

- The dairy operates a more than 3,000 cow milking operation utilizing 4,000 acres.
- A well-fed cow produces approximately 120 pounds of manure daily.
- Approximately 65,700 TONS of manure annually

The Site



The Site



The Site



The System – Collection Pit



**Primary Separation System
(sloped screen)**



The System



The System



The System



The System



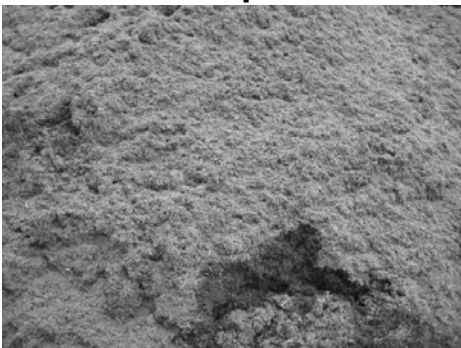
The System



The System



The end product



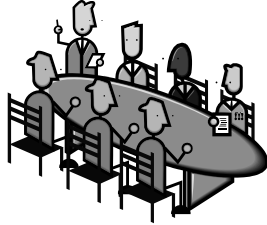
System Benefits

- Dried material is reused for bedding
- Cost savings for 300 semi-trucks of sawdust (\$1800 per load)
- Resulting liquid is pumped to fields for application rather than hauling 4,000 loads
- Resulting fuel savings for trucking and hauling (14,000 gallons of diesel fuel)
- Impact to roadways

In the beginning...

- Board of Health member:

I have a friend with an environmental health issue, would you be able to help out on this?



Where two or more are gathered...

- Organized area residents
 - Lead by a physician
 - Health Complaints
 - Odor Complaints
 - Bureaucracy Complaints



Health Complaints

- Concerns over levels of formaldehyde, acrolein (an irritant commonly found in smoke), and particulate matter
- Alleged link to chronic sinus problems, chronic asthma, burning eyes

Odor Complaints

- Residents felt changes to operations had resulted in new odor issues
 - Impacted daily living: drying laundry outside, opening windows, outside activities, use of property, and property value

Bureaucracy Complaints

- Permitting process
- Bureaucratic process for coming into compliance
- No agency clearly responsible for addressing citizen concerns

Taking matters into their own hands...

- Lead by physician
- Hired a local attorney
- Hired a Madison-based air quality expert
- Organized a letter writing campaign
 - DNR staff, State elected officials, LPHD, BEOH
- Petitioned action to then DNR Secretary Hassett
- Utilized media

Health Dept Role

- Issue is within DNR jurisdiction and expertise
- Link residents to information
- Collaborate with DNR and BEOH
- Advocate for residents and the dairy

Conclusions

- Board of Health member – maintain communication
- Do not underestimate the determination of a frustrated, motivated group to be effective – maintain communication
- Good intentions were evident for all parties
- As a LPHD, your role may be the local mediator – maintaining communication

Questions ??



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