

Meeting Agenda/Brief Recap and Updates  
8pm Monday December 2, 2013



Marion Township Library -Chickasaw, OH

1. **Jim Keller – Welcome, meeting purpose.**
2. **Glen Arnold – Results of Manure Test Plots** - Glen presented slides and videos reflecting the application protocol and the results of his local manure test plots. This manure is primarily applied to growing crops. The approach damages some of the crop but still the results are promising. Glen continues to optimize this practice, currently using tankers to apply with a goal of using drag lines. His presentation caused a considerable amount of discussion. He is looking for additional farmers who are willing to participate. A draft of Glen's results is attached. Anyone who would like more information about any aspect of these very informative trials can contact Glen directly. Phone - (419) 235-4724, email - [arnold.2@cfaes.osu.edu](mailto:arnold.2@cfaes.osu.edu). Glen's practical, scientific approach to these trials is impressive. Conducting these trials in our area is most appreciated.
3. **Bill Knapke – Latest on Mark Minnix's Ozonation test site.** Bill discussed a portable unit with Mark. Also advised Mark that his costs are prohibitive. His process may not have a lasting effect in the pit. Mark will restudy all aspects especially cost. Bill feels the idea is still viable but needs some additional refinement.
4. **Terry Mescher, Bill Knapke, Bro Nick, Jim Keller & group**
  - **Separation Technologies – ElectroCell, Pickett Enterprises, Agriment Solutions.** Jim will forward some correspondence from Geno Kennedy regarding an approach to manure separation he is using on lagoons in North Carolina. There were no other reports except Don Pickett who attended and reported that their product separated the manure in the jar test he's conducting. Costs would be about one cent per gallon. The material actually separated into three parts with liquid on the top, solids on the bottom and a combination in the middle. No real surprise there. He is having the material analyzed by a lab and advised that results would be available by next meeting.
  - **ADAPT test plots** – Tom Menke was not present and Glen Arnold had not talked with him concerning this project. This is a 2014 project designed use test plots to track phosphorus.
  - **Greenleaf Advisors - Gypsum test plots** – Not sure where this project is. Bill Knapke reported that he is working with Kevin King on a plot. Half of a field is no till with cover crops; the other half is identical except gypsum was added in October. Hopes to have some feedback sometime next summer. Lou Brown added that he

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had received an email cautioning that if gypsum used in bedding ends up in a manure pit it can cause lethal gases. Bill noted that gypsum, unlike pure lime, creates hydrogen sulfide. Bill added that he is not sure that gypsum is cleared to be used as bedding – only as a fertilizer or soil amendment in Ohio.

- **Transfer manure out of watershed.** Still working on ideas to make this economically viable.
- **Organic Pond progress** – No report.
- **Bio-Town** – Gene Marshall with the LIA did not attend but advised earlier that the manure handling project at Bio-Town has been delayed a bit. Gene is pushing for a local contingent to visit there in January, 2014.

7. **Updates from the floor** - Brother Nick commented that if we could separate the liquid in swine manure from the higher value phosphorous laden solids we could go a long way toward solving our issues. He felt that farmers currently are paying more than they can afford long term to truck their excess manure out of the watershed. He wasn't sure how long this would be economically viable. Jim Keller noted that Ivo Knapke is successfully using an anaerobic lagoon with a center pivot irrigation system to pump the fluid off the top. The crops raised below the irrigation system always yield considerably above average. Bill Knapke noted that Cooper's has found center pivots to be a sound financial investment (5 – 6 year payback). Maybe this approach has merit. The downside is the lost of acreage for the lagoon and the investment in the irrigation system. Mark Hardesty reported that he is using a two stage lagoon approach. The water is irrigated from the second lagoon and the more concentrated solids can be more economically hauled from the first lagoon.

Lou Brown informed the group that he had seen a slide show depicting the root growth of an actual plant. One could see in great detail the growth of the root system. Per Lou and Mark Hardesty the video was amazing.

Lou harvested knee high oats from a field sown after his wheat harvest. He was pleased with both the volume and quality of the crop. Lou noted that oats planted after the silage harvest had reached 14 inches high. He left it stand as a cover crop.

**Adjournment** – next meeting date and time TBA