The annual meeting and educational sessions for the Association will be January 25-26 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The annual business meeting will be from 10:45 am until 12:00 pm on Wednesday, January 26 and will include the election of officers. A level 1 refresher will be held on January 24 from 1-4 pm. A variety of other sessions are offered, including:

- Your Legal Rights in Billing and Collections
- Precision Manure Application Tools*
- When Do You Need Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification
- Calibrating Manure Application Equipment*
- Manure Application Timing and Nitrogen Availability*
- OSHA Requirements*
- Surface Water Impacts of Manure applied on Frozen/ Snow Covered Ground*
- Nutrient Management Regulatory Update*
- Status of Wisconsin Agriculture*
- How to Prevent and Document Road Damage*
- Using Cover Crops to Manage Nutrients*
- Beyond Dew and Chips—Eating Well on the Go
- Truck Brake Safety*

Sessions marked with an * qualify for PNAAW Level 2 training.

Registration forms and agendas can be found on the PNAAW website at:

http://www.wimanuremgt.org/


1. Integrity: They set an uncompromising example.
2. Humility: They selflessly serve and raise-up others.
3. Compassion: They care for others, demonstrate respect and develop potential in others.
4. Purpose Driven: They align with corporate mission, vision, and values; they inspire execution at every level.
5. Courage: They persevere to do the right thing.
6. Self-Discipline: They hold themselves and others accountable for operational performance.
Could oil sampling save you money?

Matthew Digman, Assistant Professor and Machinery Systems Extension Specialist UW-Madison

Oil sampling isn’t widely practiced in the agricultural equipment sector compared to sampling on industrial equipment, but there is some opportunity for that to change as our equipment fleets grow in size and sophistication.

An oil sample costs between $11 and $35 to analyze, depending on the dealership, laboratory and types of tests done. This cost is potentially small when considering the ways these data can be utilize to manage your equipment. For example, when purchasing a used piece of equipment, oil testing, especially those that determine where metal is wearing and what types of contaminants are in fluids, can tell you the condition of the equipment. Oil sampling may also be able to predict failures or equipment malfunction before field operations. Harvest downtime can lead to increased labor cost, loss in crop quality, as well as the cost to rent or hire the remaining harvest done.

Engine oil, hydraulic oil or any fluid in a tractor can be sent to a laboratory for comparative analysis. The types of analyses that can be performed are numerous and depend on the system being sampled (e.g., engine, transmission). I’d like to limit this discussion to a few common tests including: viscosity, metal contaminants and water. Each test leads to a diagnosis depending on the situation and equipment involved.

First, viscosity tests exploit the fact that different fluids such as oil and water have different viscosities. So, measuring viscosity of your oil can reveal if your equipment has a mixture of oil and coolant, two types of oils, or simply the wrong oil.

Next, metal contamination is usually split into two categories: wear metals and metal contaminants. High level of metal contaminants could indicate that a filter is not performing adequately or has been bypassed because it is plugged. Oil filters always have a valve that allows oil to bypass the filter so your equipment never is starved for oil should the filter become plugged.

Understanding the specific metals found in the oil can help predict future trouble or need for management changes. For example, high levels of silicon (Si) in a hydraulic reservoir could indicate soil contamination from dirty couplers or poor service practices. Wear metal contaminants can also pinpoint failures to the component. This is because each component (e.g., bushings, shafts, gears) is composed of unique alloys. However, the usefulness of wear metal data is somewhat limited to the dealer or laboratory's experience and knowledge of the specific alloys for each component of your machine. Finally, water or crackle test will determine the amount of water contamination of the oil.

Level 2 Course Tracking at Annual Meeting

To aid in tracking attendance for Level 2 training, we will be assigning a 6 digit number to each employee who has taken training in the past 2 years. The number will be on a decal on the back of attendee nametags, and will be given out at the annual meeting. You will need to show the number at the door to receive credit. New employees or those who have not taken training in the past two years will have a number assigned at the annual meeting. Decals will be available from Extension staff.

Membership Renewal

You may pay the $100/firm membership fee at the time of registration for the annual meeting or at the door. If you do not attend the annual meeting, a membership form and invoice will be sent in early February.

Certification Cards

On the certification cards there may contain two different expiration dates --- one for level 1 and another for level 2, make sure to look at the right one.