At the December 17, 2010 PNAAW board meeting, the board approved significant changes to the PNAAW certification program. These changes include a new set of Performance Standards that will be incorporated into the certification program and are designed to provide a basic level of assurance to customers that the equipment used by trained and certified applicators meets a higher standard.

These changes were discussed at the PNAAW 2011 Business Meeting, with the membership voting 23-13 to continue the discussion and formally review the standards at a separate member meeting. The standards were presented to the membership for feedback and discussion on March 7 in Hancock. Several changes and suggestions were incorporated into the Performance Standards at that meeting, and the final version is included with this newsletter.

The Performance Standards are broken down into three categories—Bronze, Gold and Silver. Effective January 1, 2011, ALL FIRMS who wish to be certified under any of the current Levels (1, 2 or 3) must also meet the minimum requirements listed under the Bronze Level. Documentation of meeting this level must be provided to PNAAW before certification cards will be issued.

Silver and Gold Levels are not tied to the certification program-they are optional for firms that choose to move to a higher performance standard.

The standards and implementation will be discussed at the 2012 annual meeting. PNAAW is gathering data on flow meter reliability, and it is anticipated that, pending the outcome, the frequency of flow meter calibration may change for future years for Silver and Gold.

A checklist for each level will be mailed to each member firm and will be available on the PNAAW website, and should be completed by the business owner. http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimanuremgt/certification-program/

PNAAW is moving our website to a new address. The change was made because the new format is much quicker and easier to post new information on, and allows for a password-protected members-only area. Update your bookmarks to: http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimanuremgt/. The old website will go away after June 1.
Certification Reminder

Level 1 certification is good for 12 months. It’s a good idea to check the expiration date on each employee’s certification (on the card or your tracking sheet), and retrain/retest if the expiration date is during the spring hauling season. Training materials and tests can be downloaded from the PNAAW website.

Dues Reminder

PNAAW dues notices were mailed to all applicators in the state in February. Annual dues are $100 per firm for active haulers and $50 for farmer/industry/other. Your dues must be current to be granted certification and be listed as certified on the PNAAW website.

Level 1 Manuals

At the March 7 board meeting, the PNAAW board voted to discontinue the practice of providing a Level 1 manual to each employee of member firms. A hard copy will still be provided to each firm, and members will be able to print copies from the updated PNAAW website. The reason for the change is the high turnover rate of employees and the associated cost of printing copies.

Moving on . .

Extension advisor Joe Bollman, UWEX, Columbia County, who has worked with the industry for several years, has taken a position with Pioneer Seed Company. We wish him the best and thank him for the time invested working with the board and the industry.

March 15 CAFO Court Case Has No Impact on Wisconsin Farms

On March 15, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in New Orleans ruled that EPA exceeded its statutory authority in requiring concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that propose or that might discharge to surface waters to apply for CWA permits. The case focused on farms with complete containment (zero discharge) operations with all animals under roof at all times.

Since CAFOs are regulated under Wisconsin statute (NR 243), and that rule applies to surface AND groundwater discharges, the ruling will have no impact on Wisconsin livestock farms.
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These changes were discussed at the PNAAW 2011 Business Meeting, and were presented to the membership for feedback and discussion on March 7. Several changes and suggestions were incorporated into the Performance Standards at that meeting.

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A checklist for each level is available on the PNAAW website, and should be completed by the business owner.

http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimanuremgt/certification-program/

PNAAW 2011 Performance Standards. Approved March 7, 2011
BRONZE LEVEL
General Requirements

- All equipment must be maintained in such a way that manure does not leak during transportation. Calibration of all equipment is required, and a record must be kept that includes the date, driver name, equipment serial number, and calibration information.

- In the event of a spill, a PNAAW Certified firm must designate one person who will stay at the spill site until cleanup is complete. This person will be the primary contact for the farmer, agencies and your firm’s employees if questions arise or decisions need to be made.

- The goal is no spillage on public roads. Any manure that is spilled on the public roads must be dealt with immediately.

- Documentation of meeting each level’s requirements must be provided to PNAAW annually prior to granting of certification.

Liquid tankers

- Equipment can be gravity flow or mechanically (air pressure, hydraulics, etc...) to unload spreaders or semi tankers.

- A small amount of drippage may occur from manure that is between the valve and the end of the splash pan, but the valve is tight when not applying in the field.

Solids spreaders

- Must conform to manufacturer’s specifications no matter what type of manure is hauled (dry, semi solid or liquid). The goal is no spillage on public roads.

Drag hose systems

- Must be in good working order, hoses and fittings must be free of leaks.

- A properly installed, maintained and working flow meter is required.

- Operators must have a way to shut off or idle down the pumps within 30 seconds of leak detection—either remote control or a person stationed at the main pump.

PNAAW 2011 Performance Standards. Approved March 7, 2011
SILVER LEVEL
General Requirements

- Firms desiring Silver Certification must meet all of the Bronze Level requirements.

- Calibration of flow meters requires a bench check. The bench check will be done with water and the meter should have a variable of no more than manufacturer’s settings. The testing method must be an approved method for the meter being tested. No one that uses a flow meter can test their own meters for certification purposes. It must be verified through a neutral 3rd party. Flow meter calibration records must include the date, operator name, equipment serial number, and calibration information.

Liquid tankers

- Discharge pipe must have a tight sealing valve

- Fill hole must have a butterfly lid or other means of minimizing spillage while in transport or if a roll over would occur.

- You must have a uniform spread pattern of a minimum of 8 feet wide, via splash plate, throughout the unloading process (from the time opening the valve to the closing of valve), at a set travel rate.

Solids spreaders

- Must conform to manufactures specifications, modifications can be made if it enhances the containment characteristics of the spreader.

- Any equipment put in service after 12/31/2010 must have a lid, tarp, or other means of preventing blow-off.

Drag hose systems

- Flow meters must be calibrated once every 24 months.

- Have a regular schedule for a current PNAAW Level One Certified employee to patrol the entire length of the dragline to inspect for pinhole leaks or other signs of leakage, damaged hose or loose clamps. Line must include valves at a regular frequency or hose pinchers must be readily available.

PNAAW 2011 Performance Standards. Approved March 7, 2011
GOLD LEVEL
General Requirements

• Firms desiring Gold Certification must meet all of the Bronze and Silver Level requirements.

• All liquid application in the field must be metered with a flow meter. Solid manure must be scaled or weigh bared each load.

• Accurate as-applied maps (preferably GPS) shall be provided to the farmer for every field.

  Liquid tankers

• The fill ports, if top loaded, must have a mechanical lid; whether it is a slide lid, an air locking or hydraulically locking lid, or other mechanical means of containing the load while in transport or if a roll over would occur. The goal is no spillage on public roads.

• If bottom loading, you must use a cap to seal the loading pipe during transport in case of valve failure.

• You must have a uniform spread pattern, via splash plate or mechanically operated splash pan, throughout unloading process, at a set travel rate, or operate in a way to achieve a uniform application rate across the field.

• All truck tankers/trucks must be able to pass a DOT inspection.

  Solid spreaders

• If semi solids or liquids are hauled in this type of spreader, the spreader must have a lid. Dry or separated solids spreaders must use lids or tarps when hauling on public roads at any speed.

  Drag hose systems

• Flow meters must be calibrated at least once every 12 months.

• A current PNAAW Level One or higher Certified individual will be traveling the feeder hose route at least once every half hour looking for signs of leakage, damaged hose or loose clamps. Line must include valves at a regular frequency or hose pinchers must be readily available.

PNAAW 2011 Performance Standards. Approved March 7, 2011
Cheryl Skjolaas, University of Wisconsin-Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist, offers these tips for safer towing:

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**Select a proper towing device.**
Don’t grab the first rope or chain that you find in the shop and use it as for a towing device. The towing device (rope, cable or chain) will be put under a significant pulling force or tension. Soil conditions and time or surface condition also need to be taken into consideration when choosing the proper towing device.

If this device or a part of the device, such as a hook, breaks; the towing device suddenly becomes a dangerous projectile. While a one inch nylon rope has a stronger breaking strength than a cable or chain, when a nylon rope breaks it snaps back to its point of attachment. Steel cables upon reaching a breaking point will rebound in an unpredictable manner and wrap around any object in its path. A long towing chain designed to support the towed load is recommended over nylon ropes or cables. Chains will break at their weakest point so check welds and hooks prior to use.

Serious, disabling injuries and deaths have occurred when a towing device failed. Tractor and truck cabs may not stop the force of the towing device and the recoiling device may strike the operator.

**Attach the towing device to the pulling vehicle properly.**
If using a tractor it is important to attach the towing device to the drawbar. Improperly hitching to anything other than the drawbar significantly increases the chances for a rear overturn. Truck bumpers are not recommended attachment points as the pulling forces may take off the bumper and the bumper then becomes a flying object. Refer to the operator’s manual for additional safe towing information.

More than one pulling vehicle may be required. In this situation, attach each vehicle with a separate towing device. Attaching vehicles in single file exerts too much power on the towing device between the second tractor and the stuck piece of machinery.

**Clear the area of unnecessary by-standers.**
Before starting to pull out the stuck machinery, clear the area of unnecessary by-standers and helpers. Ask these individuals to leave the area.

**Initiating the towing process.**
Double-check all attachments to see that they are secure. If using more than one pulling vehicle, efforts will need to be coordinated carefully between all operators. When the towing process begins, apply power smoothly without jerking. At the slightest sign of danger, tractor front-end off the ground, slip in attachment of towing device, the towing process should be stopped and re-evaluated before continuing.

Finally, Skjolaas reminds tractor operators that the safest way to pull a stuck machine is always to use proper pulling equipment in good condition, attach it properly, and apply power slowly.
Hold the Dates!

Please hold January 23-25, 2012 for next year’s annual conference and meeting, to be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. We anticipate a similar program to previous years (Monday held for Level 1, the primary program on Tuesday and Wednesday).