The Association annual business meeting is set for 10:15 am on Wednesday, January 21. Four positions on the board will be open for election this year —
* Two 3-year at large positions
* Two 2-year regional positions – Northwest and Southern

The two incumbents in the at-large positions (Ernie Sundstrom and Abe Lemmenes) have served 2 consecutive terms, and are not eligible for re-election in an at-large position. The two incumbents in the regional positions (Mike Goodwin in the Northwest and Tim Ransom in the South) are both eligible for re-election.

If you have an interest in serving on the board, please contact President-Elect Jake Buttle at (715) 281-1184

Plan now to attend the PNAAW Annual Meeting, January 19-21 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The full flyer is being mailed in the next week or so. (the agenda page is reprinted in this newsletter). Registration can be done by mail or online at https://secure.midwestforage.org/dellsmeeting.php The deadline for discounted registration fees is January 9.

Highlights of this year’s meeting include
- A business-owner only session on hiring, disciplining and firing
- Canadian farmer Jake Kraayenbrink discussing his invention to change tire pressure on the go
- Safely extracting stuck equipment
- Manure Agitation - Mixing Manure & Leaving the Liner Intact
- Nutrient Management Regulations Update
Brutal Fall, Full Manure Pits Now, Options?

It goes without saying that there are a lot of manure storages that are fuller than they should be, and farmers (and applicators) are faced with a no-win situation: Spread on frozen/snow covered ground and face the increased risk of runoff, or don’t spread and face the risk of a mid-winter storage overflow.

The first choice should be to find alternative storage. Many County Land Conservation Departments are creating lists of unused/underused manure storages, and farmers can call their local office for more information. If your client operates land in a neighboring county, it wouldn’t hurt to have them call that county as well. As many older storages were not built to current standards, the county (for small farms) should pre-approve the transfer. CAFOs are required to have pre-approval from the DNR.

If alternative storage is not available, increasing the height of the berm on the farm’s existing storage IS NOT ALLOWED. If not designed and installed properly (and that would be made much harder by dealing with frozen soil), the new berm (or underlying existing berm) can be pushed outward by the head pressure of manure, creating a leak or total collapse.

When land spreading becomes the only viable option, the farmer should have the site and rate pre-approved. If they are permitted by the Wisconsin DNR (a CAFO), then the DNR must sign off on the fields and rate. For smaller farms, the farmer can have the county Land Conservation Department help decide the proper fields and best rate.

If the farm needs to find additional fields, CAFOs will have an additional challenge, as there is a public notice period before a CAFO can add a new application site to their nutrient management plan. One solution that avoids this issue is a CAFO to CAFO (WPDES permit holder to permit holder) transfer. Example: CAFO A has no available fields. CAFO B has fields that can be used. CAFO A’s manure can bespread on CAFO B’s fields if the following conditions are met:

1. Approval from the DNR for the transfer (easy to obtain)
2. Fields must be winter spreading approved
3. CAFO B must sign an agreement to take title, possession and responsibility of the manure. Ownership begins at the manure storage, and CAFO B is required to pay for the hauling, land application and complies with all requirements of CAFO B’s permit.

Weather and Runoff Risk

Two quick reminders:

The runoff risk advisory forecast can be found online at: http://www.manureadvisorysystem.wi.gov/
That page has a link to the forecast map, a link to a mobile-friendly version, and links to the spreading restriction maps.

The National Weather Service posts their daily radar precipitation summaries online at: http://water.weather.gov/precip/ Click on Wisconsin, then you can view archive maps for a certain day, a month, or year to date.

Iowa Certification

All commercial manure applicators who want to handle, store, haul and spread manure in Iowa need to be certified by Iowa DNR. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, in cooperation with Iowa DNR, is providing this training opportunity that will be hosted by PNAAW and UWEX in Baraboo and Chippewa Falls on Thursday, January 6th, 2014 from Noon. To register for Baraboo, call Sauk County UWEX at 608-355-3250 or Jerry Clark in Chippewa County at 715.726.7950. The deadline to register is December 30. The training is also being offered the same date/time in most Iowa Extension offices. For more information, visit http://

PNAAW Scholarship to be Awarded

Congratulations to Kelsey Woldt, daughter of Daryl Woldt of Brillion, who was selected as the winner of the 2014 PNAAW College Scholarship. Kelsey is a Junior at UW River Falls, majoring in Ag Business with a minor in Dairy Science. She will be honored at the PNAAW annual business meeting in Wisconsin Dells.

Applications for the 2015 Scholarship will be available in early summer.
UW Extension and DNR are conducting a series of workshops for CAFO farms and their consultants the first few weeks of February. Manure applicators are welcome to attend and learn the latest updates on what CAFO farm permits and processes.

Dates and locations are as follows:

February 2: Jefferson
February 3: Green Bay
February 4: New London
February 6: Dodgeville
February 10: Fond du Lac
February 11: Marshfield
February 12: Rice Lake

For more information, contact Kevin Erb at 920.391.4652