

North American Manure Expo a must for custom applicators

Expo scheduled for Aug. 22-23

By Andrea Borgerding

ARLINGTON, Wis. – If there is one expo a manure custom applicator should attend, the North American Manure Expo (NAME) is the one. Since its inception in 2001, the manure expo has grown to be an annual educational and demonstration event including an industry tradeshow, manure technology demonstrations and continuing education events.

This year's expo will be Aug. 22-23 at the 2,000-acre University of Wisconsin's Agricultural Research Station near Arlington, Wis.

"Many custom applicators want to see what is new in the field," said Richard Halopka, planning co-chair for the event. "Unlike many agricultural shows, the focus [for this show] is only manure application."

Day one of the two-day expo includes tours to a local dairy-based anaerobic digester, examples of swine and dairy manure processing, plus composting and low disturbance manure application. Pit agitation demos will also be held at the research center in the afternoon. The trade show will open at noon and industry sessions, including Puck's Pump School, are scheduled for later in the evening.

The grounds will open at 7:30 a.m. on the second day, featuring a full day of educational sessions including atmospheric emissions and soil health. Manure application demonstrations, including solid and liquid manure spreaders, compost turners, plus a manure spill recovery, are also planned.

Planning co-chair George Koepp said some new features for this year's expo includes showcasing side-dressing corn with manure to extend the manure spreading season window.

"We are also stressing manure gas safety and equipment this year," Koepp said.

The education component of the expo is a draw for many custom applicators.

"Many attendees are required to have continuing education. The second day of the show provides the continuing education credits plus demonstration of new practices related to manure application," Halopka said.

Many networking opportunities is one aspect of the expo past attendees appreciate.



PHOTO COURTESY NORTH AMERICAN MANURE EXPO

Attendees take part in a demonstration at the North American Manure Expo in 2012. The 2017 show is scheduled for Aug. 22-23 at Arlington, Wis.

"It's a great opportunity for applicators to rub elbows with university and company reps, plus other applicators to learn they are not alone in the industry," Halopka said. "They can learn from conversations with other people in the industry."

Above all, Halopka and Koepp would like attendees to take away ideas for innovation, research and solutions to bring back to their custom applicator businesses.

"Past attendees have commented on how much information they gain so fast," Koepp said. "Others have appreciated the side-by-side demonstrations for comparison of equipment."

The North American Manure Expo is a free show being hosted by University of Wisconsin, UW-Extension and the Professional Nutrient Applicators' Association of Wisconsin, which owns the event. For more information and to register, visit www.manureexpo.org.

Both Koepp and Halopka agree, the expo is an opportunity all custom applicators should not pass up.

"There is no better place for a custom applicator to visit with other applicators, industry manufacturers of the equipment they use, and university researchers who do the testing and experimenting," said George Koepp, co-chair of the event.