

People & Places

Studying manure-methane link

By PADMA NAGAPPAN
For the Capital Press

For the past 20 years, Deanne Meyer has led workshops helping farmers determine the optimal herd size for manure and nitrogen management on California's 1,300 dairy farms.

The livestock waste management specialist who is with the Department of Animal Science at the University of California-Davis focuses on environmental stewardship in line with the state's greenhouse gas reduction target.

"Every project I work on these days is about reducing methane and emissions," Meyer said. "Our dairy farmers have incredible water regulatory requirements. I work with dairy quality assurance programs."

Methane production and manure management are closely linked to how cows are housed, she said.

A majority of the milk cows in the state are housed in freestall barns, so they can lounge in the shade and have fans blowing on them and sprinklers cooling them on hot days.

About a third of the state's dairies house their cows in corrals.

The freestall system tends to generate more methane because manure is collected as a slurry or in liquid form off concrete surfaces, compared to the solid form in outdoor areas with earthen surfaces.

"If it's dry it's not making meth-



UC-Davis

Livestock waste management specialist Deanne Meyer of the University of California-Davis at a dairy farm in Central California. She studies methane production and water quality.

ane, if it's wet it is making methane," Meyer said. "So the freestall system is a wonderful system for the cows, but generates more methane than a non-freestall."

Methane is one of the greenhouse gases linked to climate change.

She studied the situation in a group of dairy farms and reported on ways to reduce greenhouse gases by reducing liquid manure or capturing biogas.

Her analysis on manure management, dairy cattle housing and herd size will be used by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Air Resources Board to inform policy decisions in the future.

The state has set a target of a 40% reduction of manure-based methane from dairy operations by 2030.

Meyers has found that herd sizes and distribution vary from region to region, just as manure management does, so there's no one-size-fits-all solution.

She is now looking into custom solutions for dairies in different parts of the state, since farmers in the low desert region of the Imperial Valley may not be able to use the same strategies that suit someone farther north.

Meyer also assesses feed options such as sorghum, which some farmers switched to because it requires less water than corn to grow and



**Western
Innovator**

DEANNE MEYER

Occupation: Extension specialist, University of California-Davis.

Education: Bachelor of science degree, University of California-Davis; master's degree and Ph.D., University of Florida-Gainesville.

Research: Analyses of production, collection, storage, transportation, and utilization of manure management waste stream(s) on dairies.

water rates keep rising in the state.

"Sorghum looks good on paper but in reality it's not as good as corn because the energy content isn't as effective as corn," Meyer said.

"These farmers grew sorghum for a small percentage of the milk cows. I looked at whether they should use more acreage for nitrogen management from a water quality perspective or the same amount. If they switch, they need more acres on which to apply manure to protect the groundwater."

51st Northwest Ag Show goes virtual

Capital Press

The 51st edition of the Northwest Agricultural Show will be different from any in the past half-century. Instead of an in-person experience, this year's show will be completely online at www.northwestagshow.com.

The reason for the change is no secret. COVID-19 has changed just about everything we do in our daily lives, and the Northwest Ag Show was no different.

But instead of trying to take a typical ag show format and translate it to the internet, the Northwest Ag Show owner, EO Media Events LLC, and its manager, Capital Press, decided to create a new format that provides unlimited access to the show, its exhibitors and the presen-

tations they have lined up.

Not only can visitors "attend" the show from the comfort of their computer, laptop or smart phone, they can do it anytime of the day or night—and it's free of charge.

Though the show officially runs Feb. 16-18, virtual visitors can get a "sneak peek" online starting Feb. 8. In addition, all of the information will remain online for an entire year, so visitors can return to any exhibits or presentations as often as they want. The new format is built around farmers and ranchers and their needs, said Anne Long, advertising manager of the Capital Press and one of the show's organizers.

In addition to "attending" the show online, farmers and ranchers can explore the many



NWAS

The Northwest Agricultural Show homepage is the jumping off point for a virtual visit to this year's exhibitors and presentations.

exhibitor "booths" on the home page of www.northwestagshow.com, which serves as a virtual show floor.

In addition to the Exhibitor's Showcase, there's an Equipment Showcase, Agri-Business Showcase and Learning Center. Each is just a mouse-click away.

When visitors find a prod-

uct or service of particular interest they can view a video or other information about it. Then, if they would like to know more, they can set up an in-person meeting or demonstration.

Returning this year are presenting sponsor Harvest Capital Company and major sponsors Coastal Farm and Ranch

and Kubota Tractor.

"We're proud to have them aboard in this exciting new venture," Long said.

An added bonus: When visitors register for the show, they'll automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$500 gift card from Coastal Farm and Ranch.

In addition to exhibitors, a full slate of informational presentations will be offered at the Learning Center on topics related to farming and ranching.

The ag show has been at the Oregon State Fair and Exposition the past two years, and will return there next year.

"We look forward to returning to the fairgrounds in 2022," said Joe Beach, the editor and publisher of the Capital Press and manager of the Northwest Ag Show. "We see this enhancing a live event in the future, not replacing it."

UC-Davis barley breeder Lynn Gallagher dies at 77

Lynn W. Gallagher, who for 30 years was the barley breeder at the University of California-Davis, died Dec. 15, 2020. He was 77.

He was born in San Francisco on June 2, 1943, and was raised in Marin County. After earning a bachelor's degree in political science at UC-Davis, he joined the Peace Corps. He taught primary school for 2 years on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, and then joined an agricultural project on the shores of Lake Turkana in northern Kenya.

This last experience caused him to refocus his goals from law to agriculture, so he returned to UC-Davis



Courtesy of Frank Endres

Lynn Gallagher talks with barley producers at a 2016 field day on the Endres Ranch in Corning, Calif.

to earn a doctorate in plant genetics. His first job after completing his Ph.D. was in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, before he joined the University

of Minnesota's agricultural program in Morocco, spending 8 years there breeding barley, teaching and developing a faculty of agriculture.

The last 30 years of his professional life were spent at UC-Davis as its barley breeder. He released a great many barley varieties for feed, food, forage and malting. His most recent achievement was the development of several malting barley varieties bred specifically for California conditions, the first since World War II.

One of them, Butta 12, has been enthusiastically received by California growers and artisan brew-

ers. His efforts were additionally supported financially by a checkoff from the National Farmers Organization-Northern California Barley Growers members.

Lynn loved to travel. At any opportunity, he would board a plane or ship to explore new places and people. He was a skilled photographer who shared his travel photos on Facebook.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Smith; his brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Liz Gallagher of Santa Rosa; and two nieces and their families.

He was cremated, and his ashes will be scattered at a later date.

Idahoans tapped for American Farm Bureau committees

Three Idaho farmers have been chosen to serve on American Farm Bureau Federation committees.

AFBF represents farmers and ranchers across the U.S. It works with state Farm Bureau organizations to protect producers' rights, educate people about agriculture and promote the industry.

The Idaho Farm Bureau said in a release that Alan Clark of the Rigby area

and Kyle and Jessica Wade of Downey will serve two-year terms on AFBF committees starting in March.

Clark is a fifth-generation farmer and rancher. He has 500 beef cows and farms 1,500 acres of hay, barley and wheat. He was selected to serve on AFBF's 10-member Promotion and Education Committee.

"It's super important to promote agriculture

and educate people about the industry and where their food comes from," he said. "If we as farmers and ranchers don't tell our story and promote our industry, people who don't know anything about agriculture will tell the story and they will get it wrong."

Clark also chairs IFFB's Promotion and Education Committee, which is entering its second year. "I hope to take what I learn

from the AFBF P&E Committee and use that to help our program succeed," he said.

The Wades have a custom cattle grazing, feeding and calving operation. They were selected to serve on AFBF's 16-member Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

IFFB said national and state YF&R programs aim to help develop the next generation of leaders in

the ag industry by offering them opportunities to network as well as to sharpen public-speaking and problem-solving skills during competitions and other events.

Jessica Wade said she and Kyle aim to help bridge the gap between FFA membership and the Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Program, open to producers ages 18-35.

CALENDAR

9927. Registration: <http://virtualpfyl.eventbrite.com>

**TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY
JAN. 19-20**

Dairy Strong Annual Conference (virtual): The annual conference is organized by the Dairy Business Association. More details to come. Website: <https://www.dairystrong.org>

**WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY
JAN. 20-23**

41st EcoFarm Conference (virtual): Save the date for the 41st EcoFarm Conference Jan. 20-23. Building

upon its farmer-to-farmer education model, EcoFarm is an essential networking and educational hub for ecologically minded farmers, ranchers and all who work to support their success in growing a healthy food system and world. Mark your calendars for Jan. 20-23 and get ready for an EcoFarm Conference unlike any before as we will convene online for our 41st event. Phone: 831-763-2111 Email: info@eco-farm.org Website: <http://eco-farm.org/conference>

**FRIDAY JAN. 22
Family Foresters Workshop (virtual):** The Family Foresters Work-

shop is designed to strengthen the skills of consulting foresters, state-employed service foresters and other natural resource professionals who work with family forest owners. It serves as a forum to provide updates on emerging technology and knowledge applicable to family forestry. This year's program will be held online via Zoom. There is no registration fee this year, but those wishing to participate should register at <https://bit.ly/3lJJs80> by Jan. 15. For questions, contact Chris Schnepf at cschnepf@uidaho.edu, (208) 446-1680; Sean Alexander at sean.alexander@wsu.edu, (509) 680-0358, or Andy Perleberg at andyp@wsu.edu, (509) 667-6540.

Submit upcoming ag-related events on www.capitalpress.com or by email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

**SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY
JAN. 10-13**

American Farm Bureau Annual Convention (virtual): The convention will focus on top issues including the impact of COVID-19, sustainability and the future of the supply chain. Website: <https://www.fb.org>

THURSDAY, JAN. 14

Create a Plan for Your Land Workshop (virtual): Learn from experts about soil, water and wildlife conserva-

tion. Classes are geared toward small farms and rural properties, but anyone is welcome. We will provide technical assistance to complete conservation plans and potentially find funding for conservation projects on your land. Plan to attend all four free sessions, which will be from 5 to 8 p.m.:

Jan. 14: Conservation planning — Soil.

Jan. 21: Water and vegetation.

Jan. 28: Streamsides and woodlands.

Feb. 4: Working lands — Putting it all together.

Contact: Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, 503-391-



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Index

Opinion 6

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