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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

April 16, 2015

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- **NEW! [Job Opportunities...](#)**
- **Where Does Your Poop Go?** Kid-friendly [exploration](#) of wastewater treatment & biosolids from WBEZ Chicago. Be sure to listen to the [audio story](#).
- **Using Biosolids in Gardens & Landscapes**, a [recent fact sheet](#) from Washington State University Cooperative Extension. It follows another excellent resource on [application rates for organic soil amendments](#).

#### Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference will be part of REFOR15, Oct. 19 - 22, Danvers, MA.



This is a "must-be-at!" Call for papers opens May 1. [Updates here](#).

NEBRA & NEWEA will offer our day-long Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Symposium Oct. 19 and collaborate on sessions & tours throughout the larger conference. Our Northeast Conference exhibitors and attendees will have special opportunities for just the one-day Symposium or the full conference. *More details soon...*



#### Manure Case Law & the Importance of Nutrient Management Planning

A federal court in Yakima, WA ruled in January that a dairy farm is liable for over-application of nutrients that impacted groundwater quality with nitrate pollution. This new case law puts a heightened emphasis on formal nutrient management

plans - and carefully following them. Most biosolids are applied in accordance with such plans.

The lawsuit (*CARE et al. v. Cow Palace Dairy et al.*) was brought under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) by neighbors to the dairy, with help from Public Justice and a local environmental group, CARE. RCRA stipulates that manures are not solid waste if they are beneficially used. The judge found that, at the Cow Palace Dairy, excess manure applied to land and released from lagoons was not beneficially used and, thus, when released, "violated RCRA's ban on 'open dumping.'"

- **Gasification system in TN** to treat wastewater solids along with other residuals: [article](#).
- **Biogas Utilization: A Regional Snapshot in Understanding Factors That Affect WRRFs**, a [new report](#) from WEF, is Phase 2 of WEF's biogas data work. (Phase 1, co-led by NEBRA, resulted in the initial data at [biogasdata.org](#).)
- **Australian biosolids** [TV coverage](#).
- **Food waste is serious issue:** [New York Times article](#).
- **"Flushable" (not actually)** wipes and the problems they create continue to gain media and professional attention: [New York Times article](#) [Treatment Plant Operator update on how to solve...](#)
- **Kern County, CA** - Balanced media coverage of biosolids as the legal battle continues; see *Californian* articles about [Green Acres Farm](#) and [are biosolids a hazard](#). (Thanks to [CASA](#).)



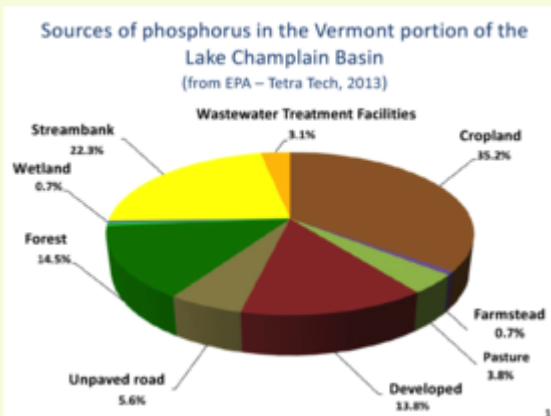
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Conferences, trainings, webinars...  
NEBRA presentations...

**Keep learning!**

If the ruling stands, it will apply to thousands of farms across the U.S. that have to manage manure (and other nutrient sources). "Farms can be held liable for pollution from manure," explained a [Reuters headline](#) (other coverage: [New York Times](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Yakima Herald](#), legal discussion: [TMDWLaw](#), and background info: [Hoard's](#)). Already, the defendant farm has agreed to install liners in its manure storage lagoons. Three other dairy farms in the area were sued as well and will likely be following suit....

[More...](#)



**Vermont House Passes Major Water Quality Legislation**

Vermont is trying to get serious about reducing phosphorus (P) inputs to Lake Champlain, and the wastewater treatment profession is being heard. For most of the past decade, U.S. EPA and the state have been negotiating a TMDL (total maximum daily load) for the

Lake, and EPA has been threatening severely low phosphorus limits (0.2 mg/l or even 0.1 mg/l) for wastewater treatment facility permits in the watershed, all of which are up for renewal. The wastewater treatment profession has emphasized the recognized reality that, because they already contribute only 3% of the P entering the Lake, further reductions will cost a lot of money per pound of P removed. So now, for the state to avoid expensive wastewater treatment upgrades, it must demonstrate the ability to reduce P inputs from non-point sources (see chart).

This is why water quality legislation, house bill 35 ([H 35](#)), is a high priority of the current legislature, and the house overwhelmingly passed a revised version on April 2, 2011.

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**Western NY Biosolids Debate: An Update**

The public debate continues about land application of biosolids from anaerobic digesters in western New York state. Here are recent developments...

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**In Brief / en bref...**

- More 2015 Legislation...
- U. S. EPA has published the [final report on its 2011 biennial review](#)...
- Gold in them thar... sludge...

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**THANK YOU!**

**NEWS from NEBRA**

Past news stories are available on the NEBRA website "[News](#)" page.

- And there are drugs too...
- Demonstrated Energy Neutrality Leadership
- "Maximize the use of anaerobic digestion capacity at NYC DEP's wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs)...."

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