

**Subject:** Regulations & legislation updates - NEBRAMail - March 2016

**Date:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 11:53:31 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** NEBRA

**To:** info@nebiosolids.org

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## Upcoming Events

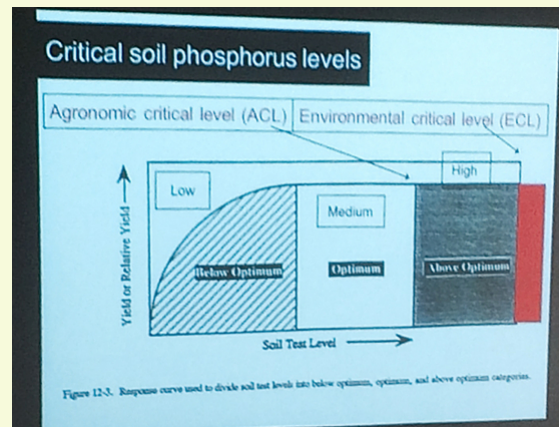
**April 1: Northeast Digester Roundtable - NEDR 16-2.**

Quarterly webinars to share technical operations experiences & advance best practices regarding anaerobic digestion in the Northeast. Operators & managers of AD

## MA: Regulating P in Biosolids & Soils

For most of the past year, NEBRA's Reg/Leg and Research Committees have been working to understand and comment on the new Massachusetts nutrient regulation, [330 CMR 31.00](#). In December, NEBRA met with the authors of the regulation, staff of the MA Dept. of

Agricultural Resources (MDAR). The core concern is to what extent the regulation's restrictions on phosphorus (P) additions to soils will impede markets for biosolids and other organic residuals. NEBRA supports the goal of the regulation and the legislation that drove it - keeping P out of surface waters.... [More...](#)



## Gilmanton NH Votes to Support Farms & Biosolids

After a heated debate locally and in print and online newspapers, the citizens of Gilmanton, NH, in the lakes region of central New Hampshire (NH), chose to allow continued biosolids use, although the vote was close (close enough to lead to a recount). Several farmers, some of whom have used biosolids as a regular part of the

Operators & managers of AB facilities are encouraged to participate in these free online webinars. This builds on a collaborative [NERC/NEBRA](#) webinar late last year. [Details...](#)

**April 4 - 7: BioCycle West Coast.**  
[Details...](#)

**May 17 - 19: Canadian Biosolids & Residuals Conference,**  
Edmonton, AB [Details...](#)

**May 27: Vermont Water Quality Day!** Celebrate Water as you start your Memorial Day Weekend.  
Details soon....

[See NEBRA Events page](#)

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### CHECK IT OUT...

"...Poop into Power..." - a stellar [PBS video on anaerobic digestion](#)

**The White House marked Clean Water Day with a stellar Water Summit** – March 22, 2016. You can watch the whole 4-hour event, see fact sheets & announcements of new initiatives [here](#) (scroll down).

**What's New?** On behalf of NEBRA, Executive Director Ned Beecher has presented at several conferences and meetings this year. These presentations and other new items are available at the top of [NEBRA's home page](#) under "What's New."

**How big is the risk from trace household & personal product chemicals in biosolids?** Northwest

operations for as much as 20 years, were vocal in opposing a proposed ban brought I referendum by several voters. The proposal was driven by concerns of neighbors near farms using biosolids. They complained of odors and other nuisance issues. Before the vote, the local Planning Board completed its required review of the proposed ordinance (which was to be a part of zoning) and voted to oppose it. The March 8, 2016 ballot vote defeated the proposed ordinance.

Despite the victory in defense of biosolids, the issue in Gilmanton has not gone away, and some town leaders and citizens are seeking to further address citizens' concerns. As in other local conflicts, ongoing discontent can continue as long as any significant parties's concerns remain unresolved.

See [NEBRA's pre-vote coverage](#).

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### In Brief / en bref...

- EPA Biosolids Program Update
- NY DEC Releases Draft Update of Solid Waste Rules; biosolids included - comments due by July 15th.
- Vermont DEC sent its required biosolids report to the Legislature on January 16, 2016.
- Microbeads banned in Canada.
- Bridgewater, MA is considering implementing local restriction on biosolids/septage use.
- In Massachusetts, drug companies are now responsible for where their products end up.
- Meanwhile, U. S. FDA is being urged to steer away from recommending flushing of any drugs.
- The BNQ Compost Quality Standard has been revised.
- In Quebec, ash from sewage sludge incinerators (SSIs) can no longer be used as a fertilizer.
- Demonstrating significant benefits of biosolids use in Ontario
- Local biosolids debates continue in Western New York.

[Read all the details...](#)

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Biosolids, with assistance from university researchers, conducted a risk assessment to address this question. Their findings are summarized in a new fact sheet (scroll down to "Biosolids Risk Analysis Brochure" on [this page](#)). It shows, for example, that, for a farmer using biosolids, it would take 24,507 years of farm exposure to biosolids to take in the equivalent of one tablet of ibuprofen. This is because the levels in biosolids of such trace chemicals are very low, and a person's exposure to biosolids is short.

### NEWS from NEBRA

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

- Stantec
- Lystek
- CDM Smith
- Agresource
- Synagro Northeast
- Resource Mgmt, Inc.
- NEFCO
- Casella Organics
- Northern Tilth

**THANK YOU!**



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