



120A

120A A MATTER OF BALANCE: CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Conservation and renewable energy are a matter of balance because of the crop biomass is food for the soil, but some see its use as only energy.

By Jane M.F. Johnson, Don Reicosky, Ray Allmaras, Dave Archer, and Wally Wilhelm

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RAISE YOUR VOICE

YOUR FORUM TO REACT TO PUBLISHED ARTICLES, TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, AND DESCRIBE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CONSERVATION INCLUDING LEGISLATION

“Although I have written to the Journal before about animal waste management (e.g. manures), my letter has never seemed to make it to anyone that was interested.”

—James G. Barrett, Portland, OR

Positive manure uses

Although I have written to the *Journal* before about animal waste management (e.g. manures), my letter has never seemed to make it to anyone that was interested. However, in the January/February 2006 issue of the *Journal*, there was an article “What We Don’t Know Can Hurt Us,” by Laura M.J. McCann, Jennifer Twyman Nunez, and Peter J. Nowak, about animal wastes that seems to display a complete absence of the potential and positive uses of manures that can not only help improve our air and water quality, but will also produce environmentally positive, and economically feasible, products such as electricity from methane gas, and soil amendments that can replace soil carbons that have been lost because of mans mismanagement of the land.

There is documentation of some very successful uses of undesirable and environmentally negative animal and human bi-products, to produce environmentally positive substitutes for oil produced energy. I have three short writings about

alternative sources of energy from manures and wastes, which are: 1) Runoff and Animal Manures; 2) Garbage & Urban Runoff; 3) Human Wastes, and; a fourth one; 4) Solar Energy (e.g. not related to wastes), that document some successful operations.

Please share my letter with McCann, Nunez, and Nowak, and also remind them that the CAFO program they referenced in their article, has (in reality) been abandoned by the USDA, NRCS! Also, let them know that I would appreciate an answer to my letter, and any comments they might have about my writings, which are about subjects I have been trying to promote for many, many years.

—James G. Barrett, CPESC#2, USDA, SCS – Retired, Portland, OR

Readers are invited to express their views on land and water management.

Please make your letter less than 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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— Deb Happe, editor