

Double J Jerseys / Jon Bansen
Monmouth, OR
Site Visit – Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Management Scenarios #2

As part of the farm's manure management, liquid manure from the holding lagoon is spread on adjacent fields.

Based on Jon's Organic Systems Plan (OSP), is the current rate of liquid manure application to adjacent fields appropriate to avoid environmental contamination? Show how you arrived at this answer.

Are the dates of liquid manure application timed to match pasture growth requirements?

Jon has sometimes observed high Potassium (K) levels in fields receiving liquid manure applications. K build-up can negatively affect cow metabolism. What are some possible strategies to reduce K build-up in the soils receiving liquid manure applications while still meeting the manure management and fertility needs of the farm?

What is your assessment of the 8-acre field east of the manure lagoon? Consider soil quality and pasture health. What criteria did you use to arrive at your answer? If Jon were to decide to rehabilitate this pasture, how might he approach this effort in light of his organic certification?

Has the condition of this field contributed to streambank erosion problems?

Conversion of land from native forest to Christmas trees and vineyards upstream has caused the Little Luckiamute flows to become more “flashy.”

What are some of the negative impacts Jon can expect? What options does he have to mitigate adverse impacts? Could increased flooding of his pastures jeopardize his organic certification?

Jon is concerned about the effects of high summer heat on the health and productivity of his cows.

What options might Jon consider?

Considering your recommendations, what are the potential negative impacts to his operation (herd health, pasture condition, organic certification, etc)?

What potential conservation benefits might result?

Gophers and ground squirrels populations have increased dramatically over the past few years.

What options might Jon consider to control these pests?