

Welcome!  
Please Keep Your Video Off

# Phosphorus Forum 2020

Day 1: Sustainable Recovery and Reuse



#Pforum2020



Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance

# Welcome!

## Phosphorus Forum 2020

Day 1: Sustainable Recovery and Reuse

### Founding/Current Members and Strategic Partners



NACWA



RENEWABLE  
NUTRIENTS



Biochar  
Now



### Strategic Partners



FEECO  
INTERNATIONAL

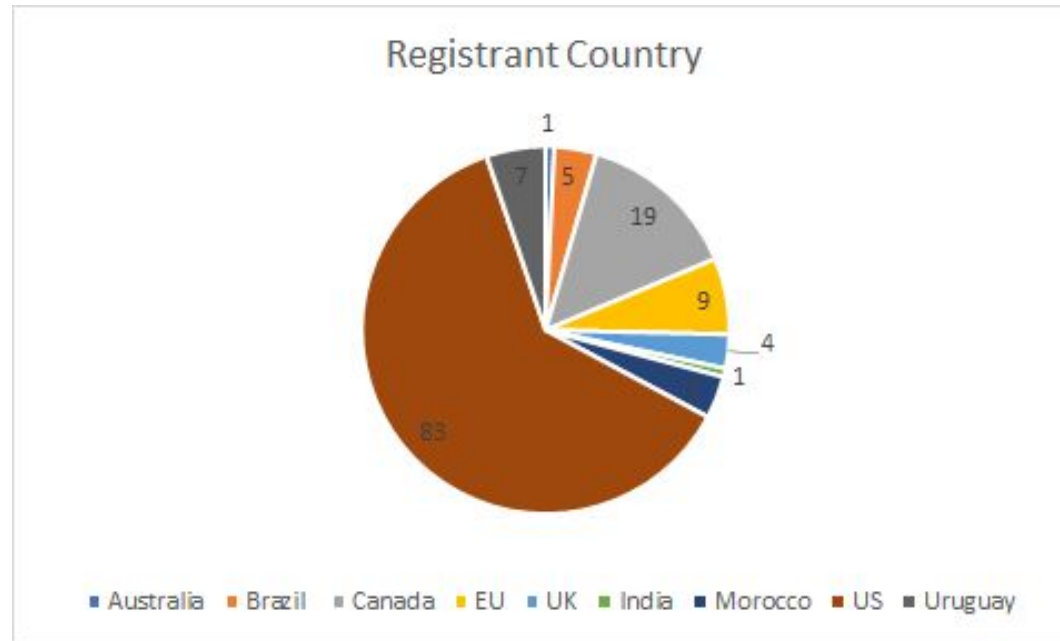


# #Pforum2020



Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance

# The Benefit of a Virtual Conference



Please complete poll



# Agenda (all times ET)



- 12:00-12:20 Welcome from the Alliance (Drs. Jim Elser and Matt Scholz)
- 12:20-12:40 Mr. Chris Hornback, Deputy CEO, National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
Regulation of Derived Products for Agricultural Use
- 12:40-1:00 Dr. Rebecca Muenich, Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance  
National Inventory of Animal Feeding Operations
- 1:00-1:45 Panel on the Economics of Small-Scale P Recovery: Mr. Jeff Dawson, CEO, Renewable Nutrients; Dr. Aaron Fisher, Water Research Foundation and Mr. Rick Johnson, Applied Environmental Solutions
- 1:45-2:05 Mr. Robert van Spingelen, Director of Business Development, and Mr. Matt Kuzma, Vice President, Ostara  
Resources Reimagined: Enhancing Phosphate Production Through Nutrient Recovery
- 2:05-2:25 Breakout rooms
- 2:25-2:45 Closing discussion & raffle!

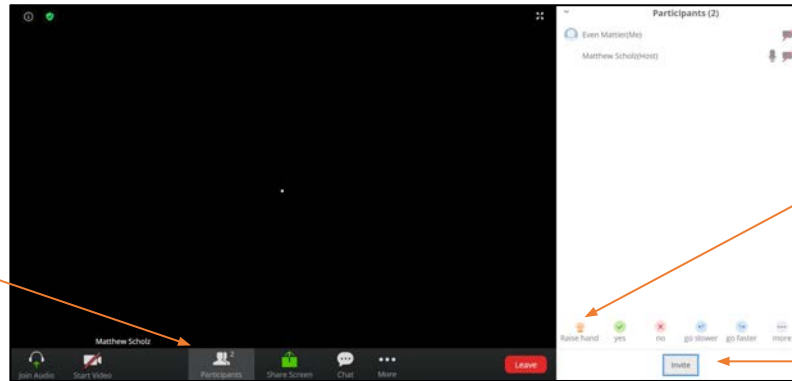




# Meeting Controls

- To avoid chaos, we've muted you and prevented you from sharing screens. Please turn off your video (or we can turn it off for you!) to conserve bandwidth.
- Please use the hand-raise feature to ask a question at the end of each presentation. We will unmute you for your question. We will have ~5 minutes for Q&A after each.
- If you are cut off from Zoom, please try to relaunch from your registration email.
- **Note: Meeting is being recorded**

Please click  
Participants to open  
side pane to the right  
and to access hand  
raise icon

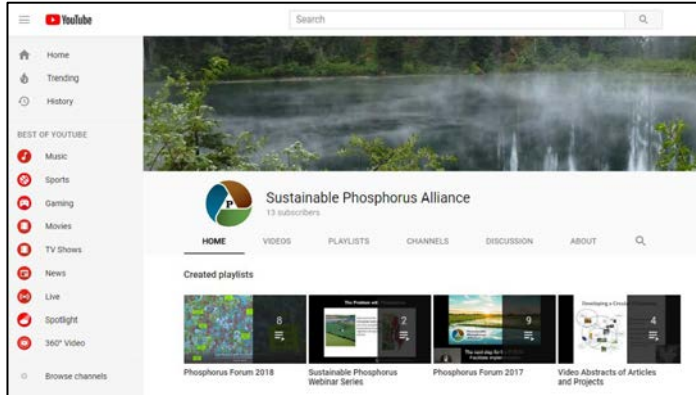


Hand-raise icon is here.  
Click a second time to  
lower your hand.

New invitees will not  
be admitted.



# Community Resources



More than 31 hours of coverage including:

- Sustainable Phosphorus Webinar Series
- Phosphorus Science Now!
- Phosphorus Forum event coverage



Membership details for organizations available here!



**Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance**

# News Items

## **Our Symposium at the virtual 2020 ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Meeting, Nov 9-13:**

*Crop response, watershed loads, and global flows – oh my! Following the yellow-brick future of phosphorus modelling*

Featuring: Drs. Josh McGrath, Chad Penn, Carl Bolster, Rem Confessor, David Vaccari, and Céline Vaneeckhaute

## **Our Symposium at the virtual AAAS 2021 Annual Meeting, Feb 8 at noon ET**

*Phosphorus and Climate Change: A Vicious Circle*

Featuring: Drs. Jim Elser, Matt Scholz, Laura Johnson, John Downing, and Mr. Ahren Britton

## **ESPP SCOPE Newsletters on phosphorus and climate change**

One to come soon and one online now at

<https://phosphorusplatform.eu/scope-in-print/scopenewsletter/1984-july-2020-scope-135#>

## **Jim's Book! *Phosphorus: Past and Future***

## ***Our Phosphorus Future* Report**

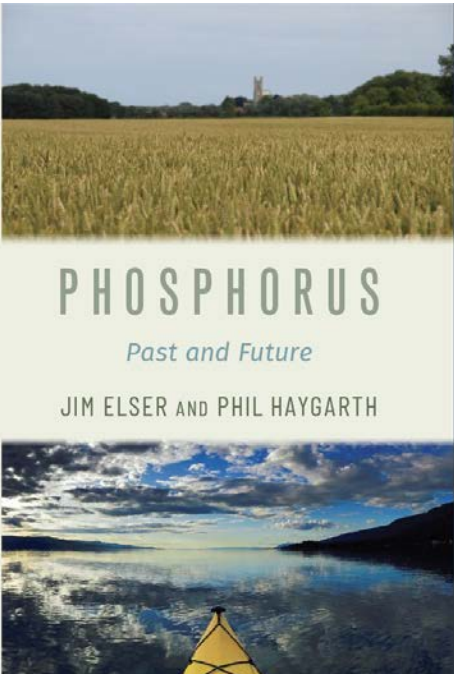


# Welcome and news from Phosphorus-land!

ELSER AND  
HAYGARTH

PHOSPHORUS

OXFORD



Phosphorus is essential to the production of our food, and it also triggers algal blooms in lakes, rivers, and oceans when it slips through our hands. An understanding of this essential resource and how we have used and misused it over the years is crucial to the sustainability of our well-being on our planet. In this book, world authorities on phosphorus sustainability Jim Elser and Phil Haygarth explain this element's involvement in biology, human health and nutrition, food production, ecosystem function, and environmental sustainability.

Phosphorus chronicles the sustainability challenges phosphorus both poses and solves in various contexts. The book begins with its discovery over 350 years ago, moving to its basic chemistry and the essential role it plays in all living things on Earth. Chapters go on to explain the rise in the usage of phosphorus in agriculture and how the increase in the mining of rock phosphate in the mid-20th century was essential for the Green Revolution. However, phosphorus emissions from human wastes and detergents triggered widespread algae blooms in the 1960s and 1970s. While such emissions have been brought under better control with wastewater treatment, diffuse emissions from farming continue to cause water quality degradation. The authors explain how these diffuse phosphorus emissions may worsen with climate change.

In ten concise chapters, Elser and Haygarth offer engaging explanations of our historical use and abuse of phosphorus, including the phosphorus

*(Continued on back flap)*

*(Continued from front flap)*

sustainability movement and new efforts to sustain food benefits of limited rock reserves following the price shock of phosphate rock in 2007-2008. Highlighting new approaches from phosphorus, "Systems Innovators" Elser and Haygarth turn toward the emerging set of sustainable phosphorus solutions necessary to achieve a sustainable "phosphohaven" and avoid "phosphogeddon." The book provides an insider's take on this essential resource and why all of us need to wrestle with the wicked problems this element will cause, illuminate, or eliminate in years to come.

**JIM ELSER** is Bierman Professor of Ecology of the University of Montana and Director of UM's Flathead Lake Biological Station. He also holds a part-time research faculty position in the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University. Trained as a limnologist, Elser is best known for his role in the study of coupling of chemical elements such as carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus in living systems.

**PHIL HAYGARTH** is Professor of Soil and Water Science at the Lancaster Environment Centre at Lancaster University. A trained geographer, he specialized in soil chemistry while working toward his PhD and then spent 16 years as a soil scientist working at an agricultural institute before he took his professorship at Lancaster. He known for his studies on phosphorus at the interface between soil and water, and his research has focused recently on the ways in which nutrient cycles are impacted by climate change.

"Who thinks about phosphorus when they dig into a juicy sirloin steak? Elser and Haygarth bring the two together from the beginning of the universe (actually after the Big Bang) to the chunk of red meat on the plate. They skillfully guide the reader through the history of discovery, use, over-use, and need for reduced consumption of phosphorus because there is only so much left on our planet. Doomsday is set aside when they provide alternative human behaviors that reduce our over-consumptive threats to our resources and provide ways for us to make a smaller Carbon footprint, a smaller Nitrogen footprint, and a smaller Phosphorus footprint."

—NANCY RABALAIS, Professor and Shell Endowed Chair in Oceanography and Wetland Studies in the Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences at Louisiana State University and coeditor of *Coastal Hypoxia: Consequences for Living Resources and Ecosystems*


"At a time when environmental concerns are dominated by carbon (above all by its role in the global warming), this book is a welcome reminder that the human interference in other biogeochemical cycles deserves no less attention. A dozen new books on phosphorus have appeared since 2010, but Elser and Haygarth's treatment stands out. They offer a systematic and thorough examination of the element in the modern world, of its fundamental importance, its irreplaceable uses, their desired and unwelcome consequences, and the ways to manage them better."

—VACLAV SMIL, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Manitoba, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and author of *Grand Transitions: How the Modern World Was Made*

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.oup.com

Book image: Top image: © Phil Haygarth; Lower image: © Jim Elser



blurb from Dr Nancy Rabalais

blurb from Dr Vaclav Smil

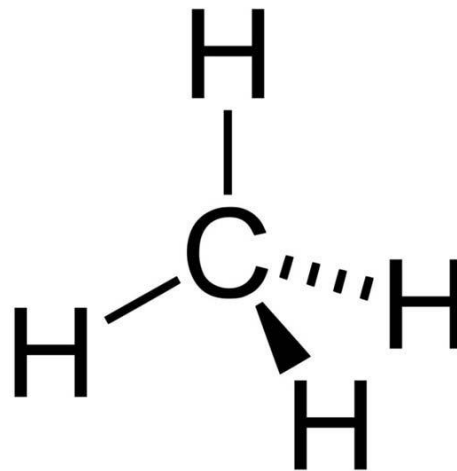
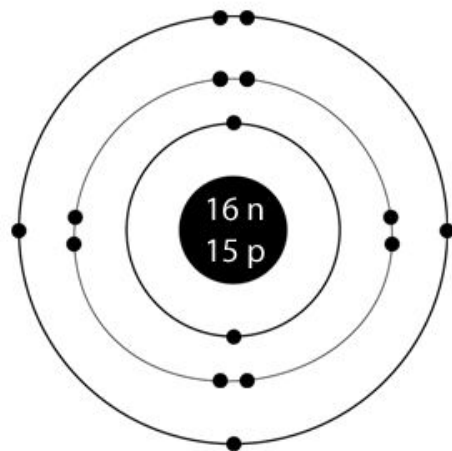
Now available for  
pre-order!



**Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance**

# Welcome and news from Phosphorus-land!

Phosphorus meets Methane!



# Welcome and news from Phosphorus-land!

Phosphorus meets Methane!

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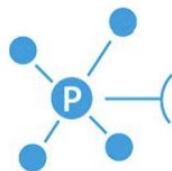
SCOPE NEWSLETTER

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European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform



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## SCOPE Nutrients and Climate Change: (1) – Aquatic Methane Emissions

Co-produced by ESPP (Chris Thornton) and SPA (Matt Scholz, Jim Elser)

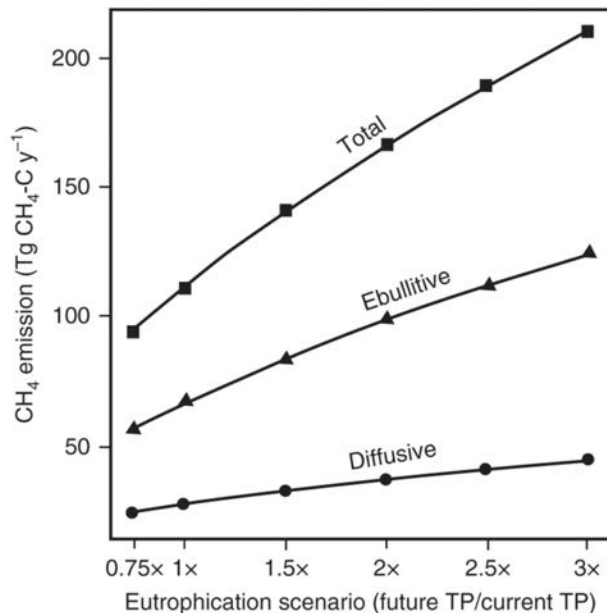
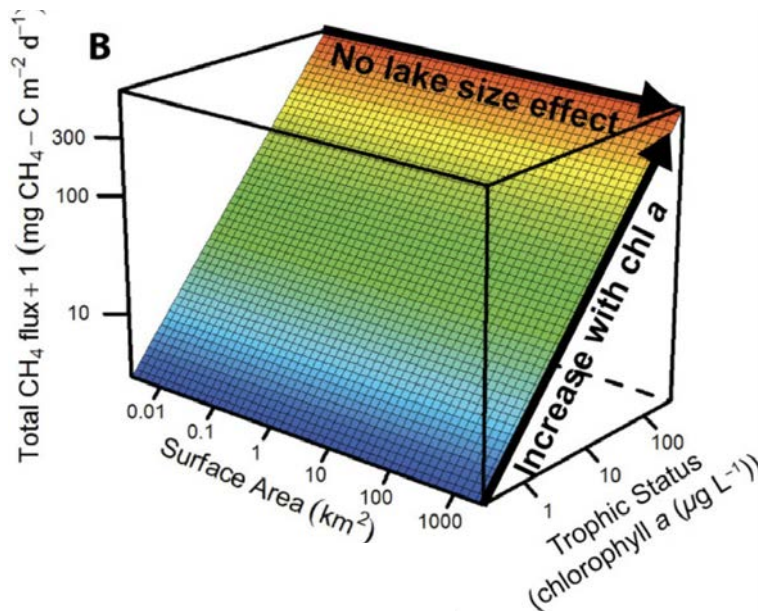


Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance



# Phosphorus meets Methane!

Greenhouse gas emissions from lakes and reservoirs represent around 1/5<sup>th</sup> of those from fossil fuel combustion, and 75% of this impact is from methane.



DelSontro, T., Beaulieu, J.J., Downing, J.A., 2018. Greenhouse gas emissions from lakes and impoundments: Upscaling in the face of global change: GHG emissions from lakes and impoundments. *Limnology and Oceanography Letters* 3, 64–75.

Beaulieu, J.J., DelSontro, T., Downing, J.A., 2019. Eutrophication will increase methane emissions from lakes and impoundments during the 21st century. *Nature Communications* 10.



Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance

# Phosphorus meets Methane!

## SCOPE Nutrients and Climate Change: (1) – Aquatic Methane Emissions

This is the first of several [SCOPE Newsletter](#) special issues addressing the [links between phosphorus, nutrients and climate change](#). These special issues are produced in cooperation between the [Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance](#), North America, and the [European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform](#).

As usual for SCOPE Newsletter, this issue is based on short 'layman's' summaries of selected recent scientific papers. We have also tried to draw overall conclusions from these papers.

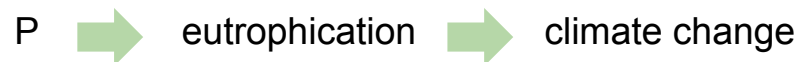
Currently in preparation are further special issues on:

- **climate change, nutrient losses and eutrophication**
- **interactions between climate change, nutrients and soil carbon**
- **climate change impacts of nutrient recycling and stewardship technologies**

With special thanks to Matt Scholz, Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance, who led the authorship of this issue on nutrients and freshwater methane emission

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<i>Beaulieu 2019.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<b>Local Analyses.....</b>	<b>4</b>
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<i>Da Fonseca Viana et al. 2019, 2020.....</i>	<i>6</i>
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<i>Donis et al. 2017.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Günthel et al. 2019.....</i>	<i>8</i>
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<i>Yao et al. 2016.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Wang et al. 2017.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<b><i>Algal methane production.....</i></b>	<b><i>11</i></b>
<i>Lenhart et al. 2016.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Klitzsch et al. 2019.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Bižić et al. 2020.....</i>	<i>11</i>
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# Phosphorus meets methane at 2021 AAAS meeting!



UNDERSTANDING  
**DYNAMIC**  
ECOSYSTEMS

AAAS | ANNUAL MEETING

## RESEARCH TOPICS

- COVID-19
- Toxins and pollution remediation
- Artificial intelligence, robotics, nanotechnology, and human-machine interface applications
- Modeling—traditional methods to quantum computing
- Weathering extreme climate and geological changes
- Microbiomes
- Genetic engineering challenges
- Social ecosystems
- Systems of interaction and community-building both in-person and virtually
- Invasive species

This list highlights issues we believe are particularly timely, but we welcome submissions on other relevant topics.

#AAASmtg

## Symposium

“Phosphorus and Climate Change: A Vicious Circle”

## Featuring

### *Moderators*

Jim Elser & Matt Scholz (SPA)

### *Speakers*

John Downing (NOAA)

Laura Johnson (Heidelberg U.)

Ahren Britton (Ostara, Inc.)



Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance



# OUR PHOSPHORUS FUTURE



Brownlie, William (Principal Investigator)  
Spears, Bryan (Co-Principal Investigator)  
Howard, Clare (Co-Principal Investigator)  
Heal, Kate (Co-Principal Investigator)  
Sutton, Mark (Co-Principal Investigator)  
[Johnes, Penny J](#) (Co-Investigator)

## The 'Our Phosphorus Future' project

The 'Our Phosphorus Future' project is a two year project (concluding in March 2019), funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) international opportunities fund, with additional support from UN-Environment and the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP). The project is currently being delivered by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

## Funding



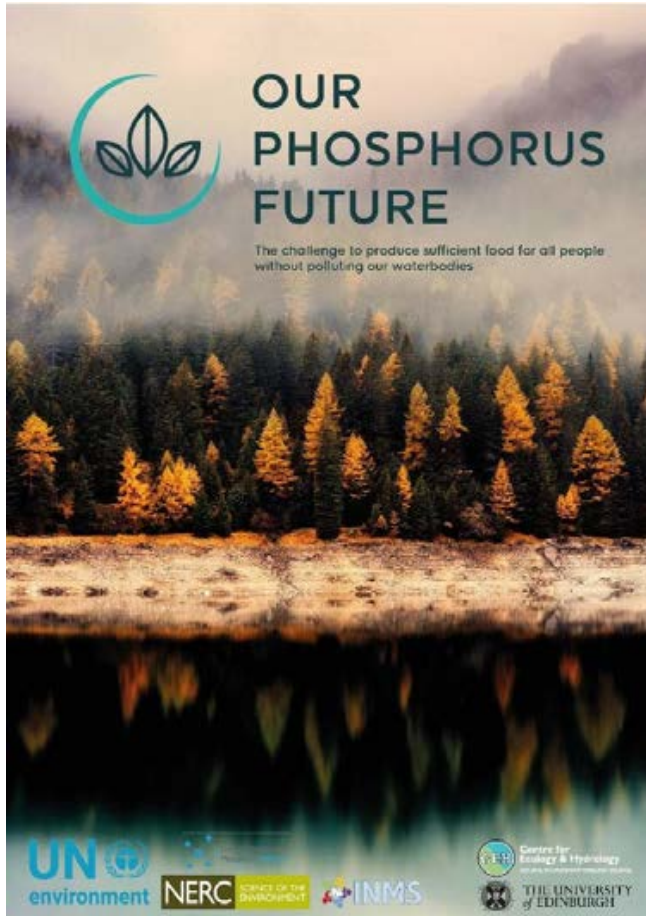
## Executing partners





80+ Authors/Contributors  
20 countries





**SYNTHESIS REPORT:** Concise, highly visual, easily accessible/readable. (~150 pages),

**AUDIENCE:** policy makers, environment agencies, with supporting media for the public and the media

Setting the scene

The challenges

The solutions/benefits

Regional perspectives

The way forward



**Increasing awareness:** different formats, for different audiences, to maximize impacts.

1.30 mins

Explainer video

10 mins

Scrolling story

15-20 mins

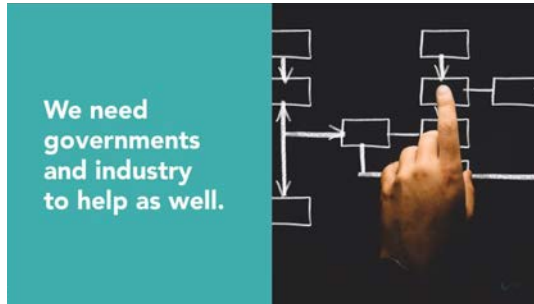
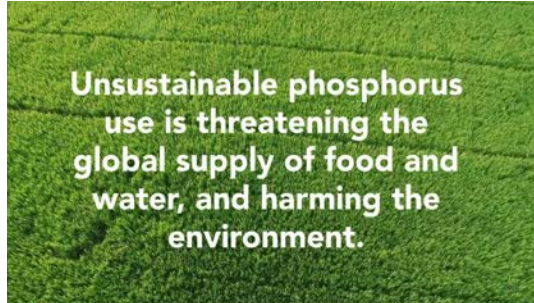
Full chapter

Full document

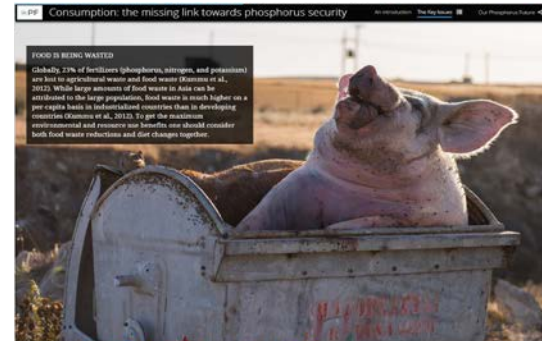
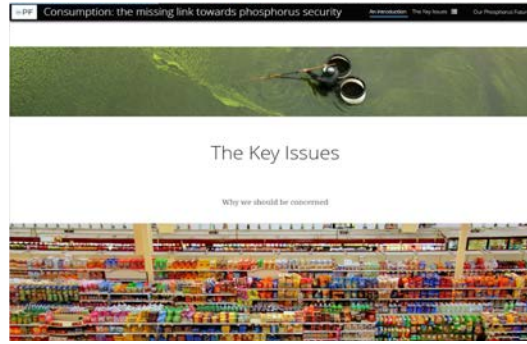
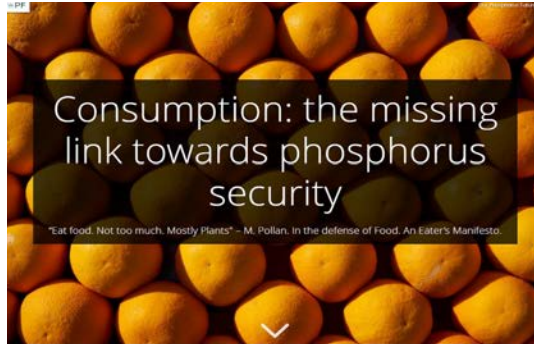


OUR  
PHOSPHORUS  
FUTURE

## Stills taken from one of the 10 explainer videos...



# Stills taken from one of the 10 scrolling stories...





Stills taken from one of the animated social media videos...

PHOSPHORUS  
POLLUTION  
IS DESTROYING  
OUR ECOSYSTEMS



CURRENTLY, 80% OF OUR  
WASTEWATERS  
ARE POURED INTO RIVERS  
WITHOUT ANY TREATMENT



WITHOUT PHOSPHORUS WE CAN'T GROW ENOUGH  
TO FEED EVERYONE



BUT WE MUST BE

MORE CAREFUL



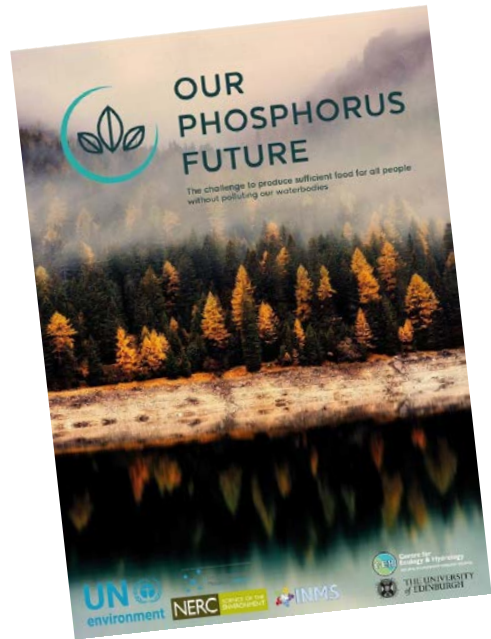
BUT  
TOGETHER  
WE CAN BEAT  
THE ALGAL BLOOMS



YOU CAN MAKE A  
BIG  
DIFFERENCE AT HOME



OUR  
PHOSPHORUS  
FUTURE



## THE ROLE OF PHOSPHORUS IN ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY

The transition to food systems that provide nutritious food for everyone, sustainably, is not possible without significantly improving the sustainability of our phosphorus use. Simply put, we cannot achieve food security without addressing phosphorus security. Phosphorus security includes:

- Fertiliser security** – ensuring farmers have access to nutrients/fertilisers;
- Mutifood security** – ensuring people have access to healthy diets with optimal phosphorus intake;
- Natural security** – countries have reliable access to phosphorus resources;
- Water security** – aquatic ecosystems are protected from the damage caused by excess phosphorus.

Food systems need to transition to grow more nutritious foods with lower environmental footprints (lower nitrous oxide, water, land, and phosphorus inputs), deliver food value, ensure and increase food access. Climate change, diversity and the non-communicable diseases epidemic (i.e. diabetes and cardiovascular health, cancer, mental health) as well as agricultural growth of commodity crop-based agriculture is not an option. Growing nutritious food is sustainable, can reduce the burdens of malnutrition and environmental impacts generally.

As reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), reducing poverty (SDG1) and hunger (SDG2) are among the critical challenges for humanity. Most of the world's hungry are rural smallholder farmers, therefore supporting farmer livelihoods by providing in-kind farmers and rural women can simultaneously address poverty and hunger. For phosphorus, such investment could include extension services to improve productivity such as phosphorus use efficiency, improved access to credit, insurance and loans for fertilisers/nutrients in addition to other inputs, and employment diversification for vulnerable farmers (e.g. to less phosphorus use, avoid crops or off-farm employment such as agri-tourism). Importantly, change is needed across the whole food system, not just in the agricultural sector, such as diets to low phosphorus-foodprint diets and improvements in the capacity to recover and reuse phosphorus from

organic waste streams.

### THE PROBLEMS

- Food production in nearly every country is reliant on phosphate imports from only a few countries. Five countries control 85% of the world's phosphate rock reserves, leaving food systems in most countries dependent on phosphorus imports and vulnerable to business price fluctuations and geopolitical instabilities in producing countries.
- In many regions, a lack of phosphorus inputs to soils hinders crop production. Like water, carbon and nitrogen, phosphorus is vital for growing the crops that sustain food systems. Of the approximately 800 million people who face the risk of hunger, more than 600 are smallholder farmers in the developing world (FAO 2015). The same group are most vulnerable to phosphorus scarcity. For farmers, lack of access to phosphorus fertilisers (Gardell and White 2014a, MAECTD 2016).
- Fluctuation in phosphate fertiliser price is a risk to food security in the short term. In 2008, the phosphate fertiliser price spiked by 800%. This affected the livelihoods of many of the world's poorest farmers, resulting in farmer debt and reports of farmer suicides, for example in India and India. This spike was the result of many factors, including the withdrawal of US Federal policy in 2007, which saw a sharp rise in demand for fertilising fast-growing biofuel crops.
- The increasing cost of raising our plants from phosphate rock imports and reducing its phosphorus is a risk to food security in the long term. Expensive and high quality, very low quality phosphorus reserves will force a range of reserves that are hard to get for and lower quality, with additional processing costs partially transferred to farmers and consumers.
- Long food value chains, based on globalised commodity based agriculture, have led to low phosphorus use efficiency. The efficiency of the mineral phosphorus used in agriculture is low and in the food chain between farm and fork (Gardell et al. 2009). Much of this ends up in rivers, lakes and oceans where it



can cause toxic algal blooms, harm declining aquatic ecosystems and clogging the fisheries and recreation industries billions.

- Nutritional insecurity is complex: more people are obese in the world today than undernourished. Obesity is often associated with poverty and a reliance on calorie-dense but nutrient-poor foods. Malnutrition in all its forms occurs in every country in the world (FAO IFAD UNICEF WFP and WHO 2015). Human dietary phosphorus intake in the developed world is at double the recommended levels and maybe harming some vulnerable people. In the developing world, lack of accessibility to adequate phosphorus inputs is undermining both food quantity and quality.

### THE SOLUTIONS

Achieving food security will require transforming food systems to grow more nutritious foods with lower environmental footprints, making the food system more efficient such as reducing food waste, with shorter food value chains and more food security in food. This means explicitly shifting from a production-oriented paradigm to one that seeks to intermediate low waste, coupled with healthy eating of sustainably produced food.

For phosphorus, this means ensuring resource security for all parts of the food system:

- Fertiliser security – farmers have financial and physical access to phosphorus fertilisers;
- soil security – soil phosphorus is maintained at optimal levels to plant available forms;
- natural security – countries have reliable access to phosphorus resources underpinning food supply;
- nutritional security – people have access to balanced diets including optimal phosphorus intake;
- environmental security – avoiding dangerous malnutrition, climate change and food chain waste.

Implementing change across the whole food value chain is not just within agriculture. This will include improving phosphorus use efficiency, reducing waste, improving food processing and distribution efficiency, producing food closer to end markets, improving recycling of food waste streams and more stringent cadmium limits in food. This means producing low phosphorus-demanding foods, supporting



# OUR PHOSPHORUS FUTURE



Brownlie, William (Principal Investigator)  
Spears, Bryan (Co-Principal Investigator)  
Howard, Clare (Co-Principal Investigator)  
Heal, Kate (Co-Principal Investigator)  
Sutton, Mark (Co-Principal Investigator)  
[Johnes, Penny J](#) (Co-Investigator)

Current status: just completed internal peer review; going out for review by partners  
Target release: December 2020 / January 2021

## Funding



## Executing partners





# Agenda (all times ET)



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Resources Reimagined: Enhancing Phosphate Production Through Nutrient Recovery
- 2:05-2:25 Breakout rooms
- 2:25-2:45 Closing discussion & raffle!



# Next Speaker



**Mr. Chris Hornback**  
**Deputy CEO**  
**National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)**

Chris joined the National Association of Clean Water Agencies in 2001 and currently serves as the Association's Deputy CEO. He has nearly 25 years of experience working on a range of environmental issues for NACWA and the private sector.



# Regulation of Derived Products for Agricultural Use



**Chris  
Hornback**  
Deputy, CEO

## NACWA: A Clear Commitment to Our Nation's Waters

- National trade association for public wastewater & stormwater utilities in the United States
- Represent over 330 public utilities of all sizes from around the country
- Focused on legislative, regulatory, legal & communications advocacy on the full spectrum of clean water issues









# Uncharted Territory?

- The “Utility of the Future” Mindset: Wastewater Treatment = Resource Recovery...BUT
  - How are PRODUCTS recovered from a waste treatment process regulated?
  - What if that waste treatment process is highly-regulated under a Federal statute like the Clean Water Act?
  - And what if that statute was written before the PRODUCTS were even conceived of and provides no pathway for those PRODUCTS to fall out of regulation?



# Where we have been...

- Discussion at NACWA started in late 2011/early 2012
- NACWA engaged EPA and its attorneys in 2013 and provided a detailed legal rationale in 2014
- Discussions around product quality continued, with additional requests for more data/information
- January 2017 EPA Letter
  - PRODUCTS sold as commodities and not land applied, land disposed or incinerated = outside the scope of Part 503
  - Otherwise - Case by Case



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON D.C., 20460

JAN 12 2017

Office of Water

Mr. Adam Krantz, CEO  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
1816 Jefferson Place N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20036

We have had discussions with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and some of their members regarding the applicability of the 40 C.F.R. 503 *Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge* to various scenarios involving the recovery of useful resources from wastewater.

As a general matter, EPA considers products extracted from sewage sludge that are not land applied, land disposed, or incinerated, but instead sold into a commodity market, outside the scope of Part 503. For example, a company could potentially extract precious metals or rare earth elements from wastewater. Such products would not be subject to Part 503 if they were resold as commodities instead of "applied to the land, placed on a surface disposal site, or fired in a sewage sludge incinerator." This is consistent with EPA's existing guidance on Part 503, which makes clear that Part 503 "establishes requirements for the final use or disposal of sewage sludge (biosolids) when biosolids are: applied to land . . . placed on a surface disposal site . . . or fired in a biosolids incinerator." See *A Plain English Guide to the EPA Part 503 Biosolids Rule*, at p. 6 (September 1994).

The situation becomes more complicated when the product is intended to be land applied, surface disposed, or incinerated as contemplated by Part 503. Part 503 regulates "sewage sludge" and it defines the term to include "material derived from sewage sludge." But EPA recognizes that some products originating from sewage sludge could conceivably be so heavily refined or processed that a significant transformation or change in quality has occurred to the extent that it would be unreasonable to describe those products as "material derived from sewage sludge." Because such products would not meet the definition of "sewage sludge," they would be outside the scope of Part 503. EPA cannot, at this time, offer any general statements about what types of products may not be "derived from sewage sludge." But EPA is willing to consider on an individual case-by-case basis whether a particular product recovered from sewage sludge is beyond the scope of Part 503.

If NACWA or its member facilities wish to inquire of EPA its views about whether a particular product is "derived from sewage sludge," EPA would consider all of the following information to be helpful:



# Current Landscape

- Case by Case letter remains in place, though has not been tested
- Trump Administration Regulatory Reform Effort
  - NACWA urges regulatory revisions to create a clear 'off ramp' for derived products
- Office of Water – current leadership has been engaged on the issue; their legal team has been evaluating – other issues have taken priority
- Federal regulations are not the only obstacle to additional growth of struvite recovery at the nation's water resource recovery facilities



CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS

50

OF CLEAN WATER SUCCESS

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Regulation of Derived Products for Agricultural Use



12:40-1:00 Dr. Rebecca Muenich, Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance  
National Inventory of Animal Feeding Operations

1:00-1:45 Panel on the Economics of Small-Scale P Recovery: Mr. Jeff Dawson, CEO, Renewable Nutrients; Dr. Aaron Fisher, Water Research Foundation and Mr. Rick Johnson, Applied Environmental Solutions

1:45-2:05 Mr. Robert van Spingelen, Director of Business Development, and Mr. Matt Kuzma, Vice President, Ostara  
Resources Reimagined: Enhancing Phosphate Production Through Nutrient Recovery

2:05-2:25 Breakout rooms

2:25-2:45 Closing discussion & raffle!



# Next Speaker



**Dr. Rebecca Muenich**  
**Assistant Professor, Arizona State University**  
**Research Scientist, Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance**

Becca is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering at Arizona State University. Her expertise is in watershed and environmental modeling to evaluate trade-offs in management and engineering solutions for water and water quality.





Phosphorus Forum:  
September 30, 2020

# Under the Radar

The Need for and Approach to Develop a  
National Animal Feeding Operations Inventory

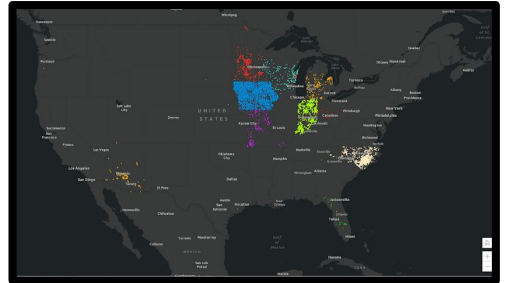
*Rebecca Logsdon Muenich*



**Sustainable  
Phosphorus  
Alliance**

**ASU** Ira A. Fulton Schools of  
**Engineering**  
Arizona State University

  
**MUENICH LAB GROUP**



# Background



# Background

- The desire for meat, dairy and other animal products has increased over time (worldwide)
- Trend towards larger operations
- Operations concentrated with respect to animals per farm **and** in space
- These large farms or clusters of large farms can produce the same amount of waste per year as cities



# Background

- Known impacts of large animal operations
  - Air quality issues
  - Water quality (nutrients, pathogens, metals, ARG/B)
  - Ecosystems
  - Human health
  - Environmental justice
  - More...



# Background

*But these operations are also a great place to recover organic matter, nutrients, and even water!*





# Goal

***Create a national inventory of ALL  
regulated and non-regulated animal  
feeding operations***

# Background - Regulatory

- Animal feeding operations vs. CAFOs?
  - Animals confined for 45 days or more in a 12-month period
  - Crops, vegetation not sustained in normal growing season over any portion of lot facility
  - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)
    - *Meets above AND meets animal size numbers* or actively discharges via pipe, ditch, etc. to WOTUS



# Background - Regulatory

- Example CAFO numbers

Animal Sector	Size Thresholds (number of animals)		
	Large CAFOs	Medium CAFOs <sup>1</sup>	Small CAFOs <sup>2</sup>
cattle or cow/calf pairs	1,000 or more	300 - 999	less than 300
mature dairy cattle	700 or more	200 - 699	less than 200
veal calves	1,000 or more	300 - 999	less than 300
swine (weighing over 55 pounds)	2,500 or more	750 - 2,499	less than 750
swine (weighing less than 55 pounds)	10,000 or more	3,000 - 9,999	less than 3,000
horses	500 or more	150 - 499	less than 150
sheep or lambs	10,000 or more	3,000 - 9,999	less than 3,000
turkeys	55,000 or more	16,500 - 54,999	less than 16,500
laying hens or broilers (liquid manure handling systems)	30,000 or more	9,000 - 29,999	less than 9,000
chickens other than laying hens (other than a liquid manure handling systems)	125,000 or more	37,500 - 124,999	less than 37,500
laying hens (other than a liquid manure handling systems)	82,000 or more	25,000 - 81,999	less than 25,000
ducks (other than a liquid manure handling systems)	30,000 or more	10,000 - 29,999	less than 10,000
ducks (liquid manure handling systems)	5,000 or more	1,500 - 4,999	less than 1,500

<sup>1</sup>Must also meet one of two "method of discharge" criteria to be defined as a CAFO or may be designated.

<sup>2</sup>Never a CAFO by regulatory definition, but may be designated as a CAFO on a case-by-case basis.



## State CAFO numbers\*



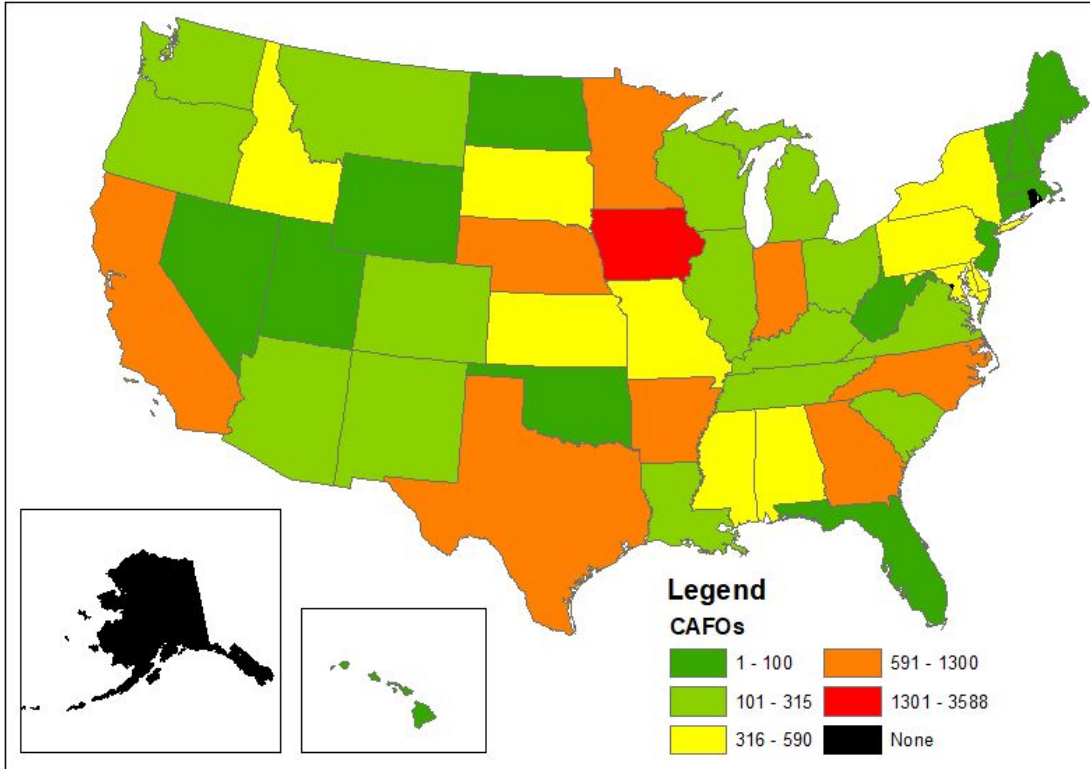
*\*Per federal definition of a Large CAFO*

# Regulatory Complexities

- CAFOs are regulated by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under the Clean Water Act
  - In 40 CFR Part 122 and 40 CFR Part 412
- Recent rule changes and interpretations of federal CAFO regulations has led to more focus and emphasis at the state and local level
  - Not all CAFOs are required to get NPDES permits



# Regulatory Complexities



262 CAFOs in Ohio, 30  
with NPDES permits

# Regulatory Complexities

*These matter because it controls what data are publicly available...this is why there is not a nationwide inventory of CAFOs*

# Regulatory Complexities

The screenshot displays the GIS-P web application, titled "A Tool for Sustainable Phosphorus Management". The interface includes a top navigation bar with the Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance logo and social media links. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs for "Project Overview", "Manure Regulations", "Biosolid Regulations", "Full Data Map", and "Sources". The "Manure Regulations" tab is active, showing a dropdown menu for "Alabama". The main content area is divided into two panels. The left panel, titled "Regulations", contains explanatory text about the tool's purpose and a note about the intent of the regulations. The right panel, titled "Alabama", provides specific regulatory details under three sub-sections: "Regulator" (Alabama Department of Environmental Management), "Links to regulations" (ADEM CAFO program and NPDES forms), and "Definitions" (CAFO definition). A legend for departmental categories (ENV, NR, AG, COMB, OTH) is also present. The bottom of the interface has tabs for "Regulations" and "State Maps".

**GIS-P**  
A Tool for Sustainable Phosphorus Management

Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance

Project Overview | **Manure Regulations** | Biosolid Regulations | Full Data Map | Sources

Alabama

## Regulations

You'll notice two tabs at the bottom of this panel for "Regulations" and "State Maps". The current Regulations tab provides a text summary of state-level manure land application regulations. A pulldown menu in the upper right of the pane permits you to select a state of interest.

Please note that the intent here is not to summarize all manure land application regulations, but rather to focus on those that pertain to how nutrients flow through the environment. For most states, these summary data were updated by state regulators.

### Regulator

**Agency(ies) involved in regulation enforcement:**  
Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)

**Links to regulations:**  
ADEM CAFO program:  
<http://www.adem.state.al.us/programs/water/cafo.cnt>  
Chapter 335-6-7. AL NPDES <http://www.adem.state.al.us/programs/water/waterforms/CAFORule12-1-00.pdf>

**Which departmental category is the regulating agency? ENV = environmental; NR = natural resources; AG = agriculture; COMB = more than one agency; OTH = other**  
Combined

**Other regulatory info:**  
Not Applicable

### Definitions

**How CAFOs are defined or categorized:**  
335-6-7-.02 (h) "Animal Feeding Operation" (AFO) means a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where animals (does not have to be the same animals) have been, are, or will be stabled, confined, tethered, or concentrated and fed or maintained (watered, cleaned, groomed, medicated, etc.) for a...

Last update: a few seconds ago

Regulations | State Maps

<https://phosphorusalliance.org/gis-p>

Rauh E, Muenich RL, Scholz M. Policy Landscape for Recycled Fertilizers in the US: Implications for land application of biosolids and CAFO manure. In review.



**Sustainable  
Phosphorus  
Alliance**

# Other Reg. Considerations

- Many farms may operate just below Large CAFO animal numbers to avoid regulation
  - In this case, a state-provided list of regulated operations would miss these
- Sometimes it's not about the *number* of animals, but:
  - Number of animals per land available
  - Animals/farm per sensitive environmental conditions
  - Number of farms within certain vicinity

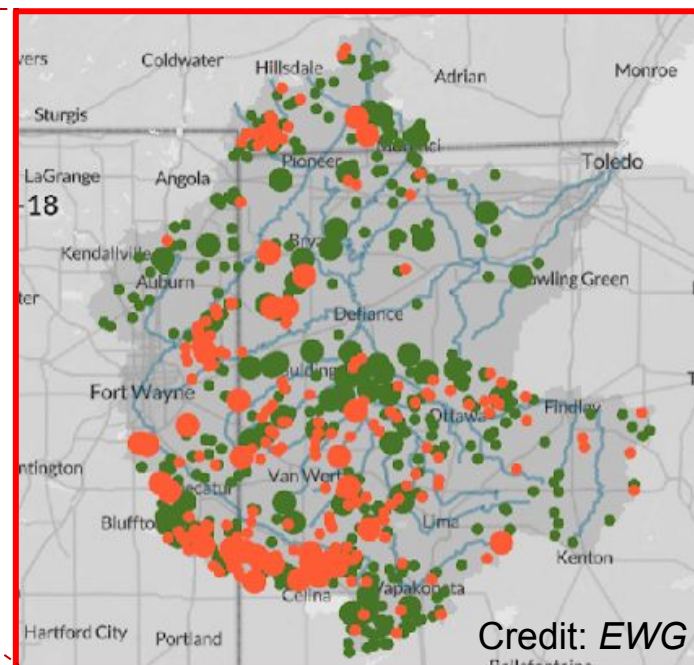
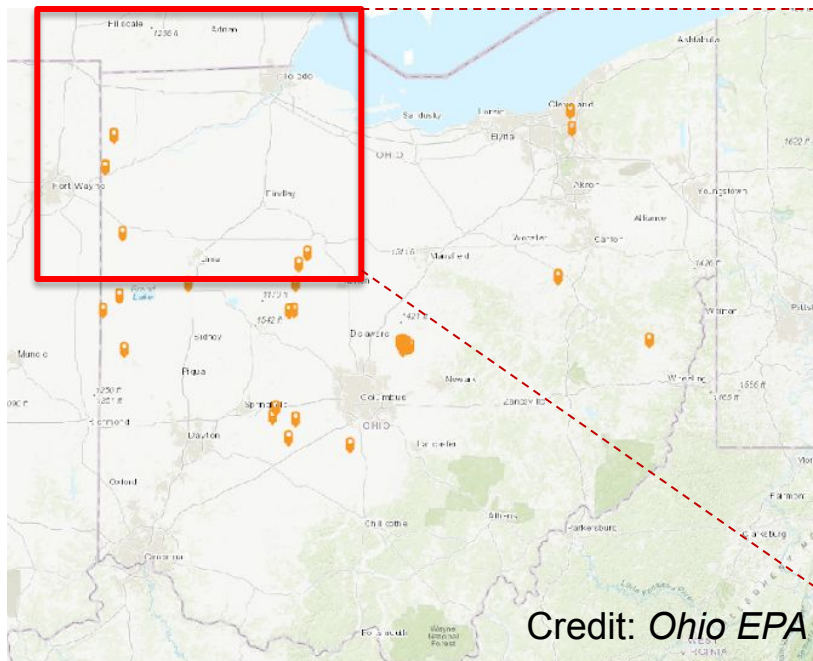
*...So we need maps of all farms*

# **Current Approaches to Mapping**

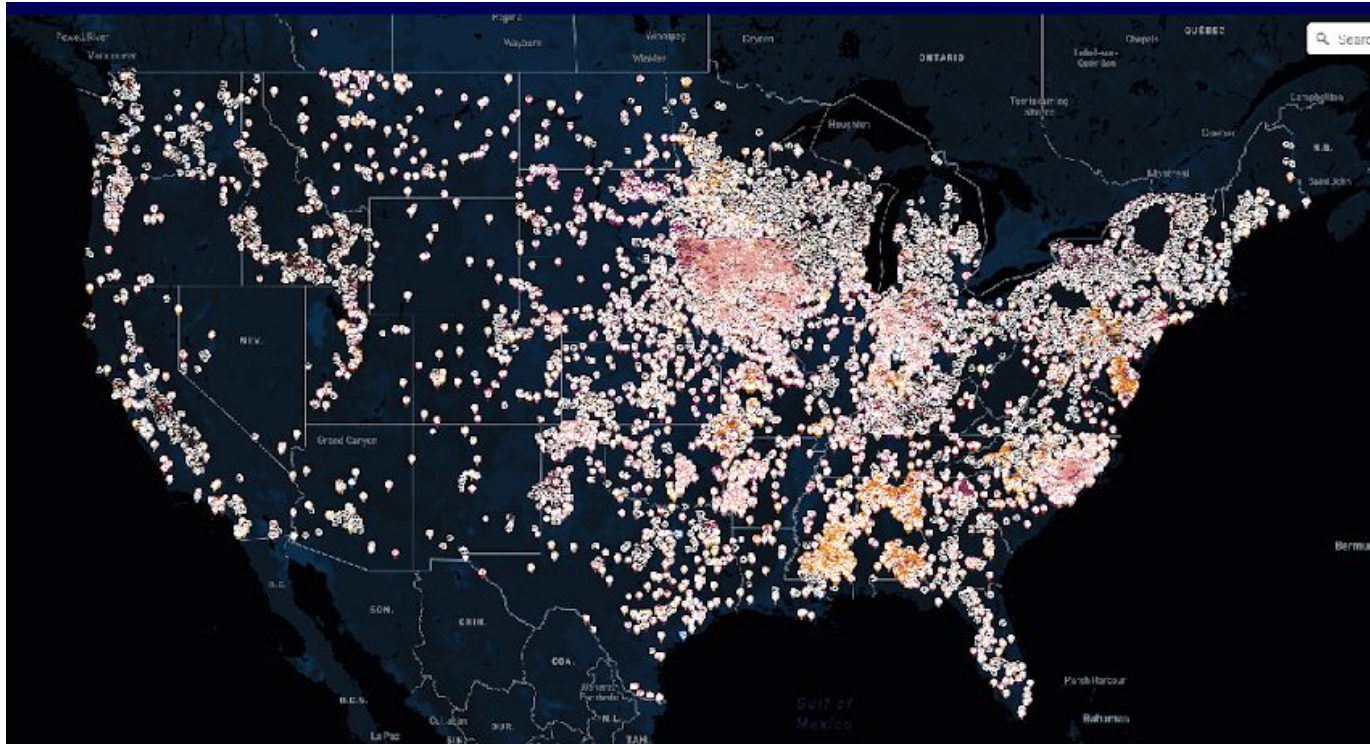


# Manual Approaches

# Digital Image Review by Humans



# Citizen Science

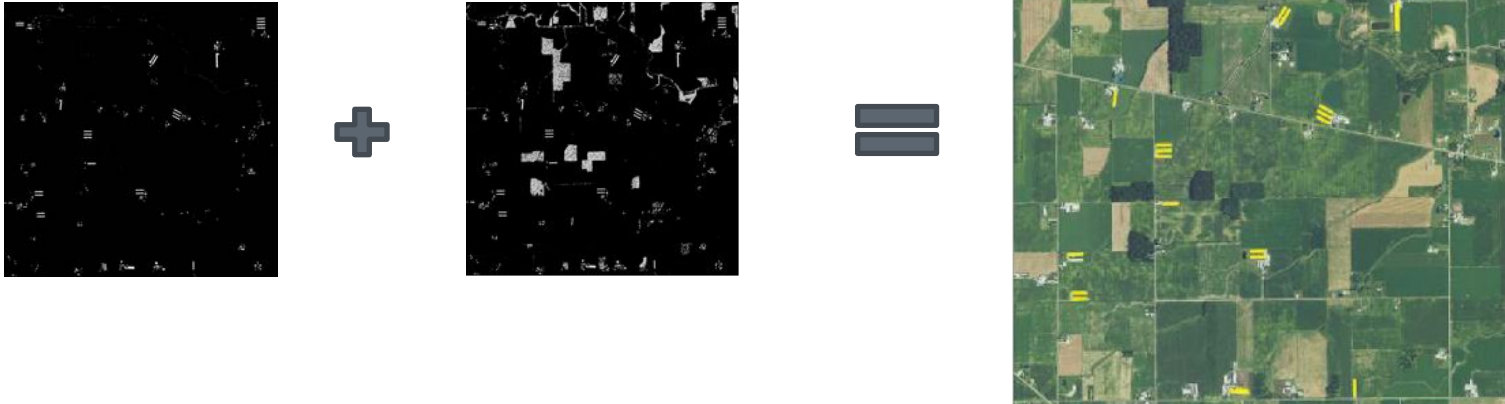


Credit: Project Counterflow <https://map.counterflow.org/>

# Automatic Approaches

# Approach – Remote Sensing

- Combine NDVI (vegetation information) with LiDAR (height data) to identify barns
- Use object-oriented classification to create barn shapes



# Approach – Deep Learning (AI)

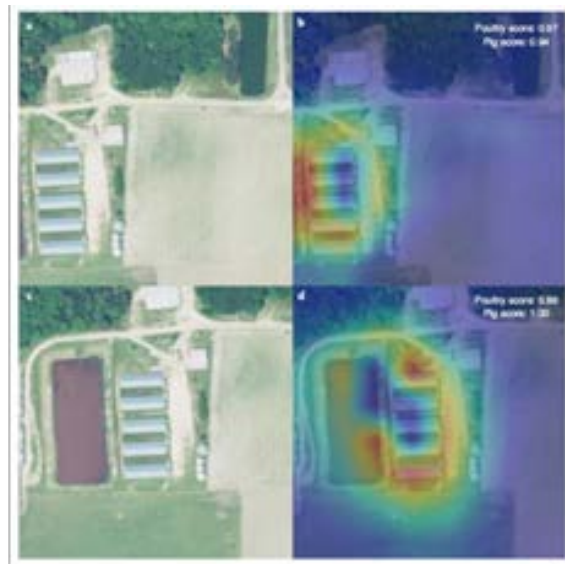


In the format provided by the authors and unedited.

## Deep learning to map concentrated animal feeding operations

Cassandra Handan-Nader<sup>1,2</sup> and Daniel E. Ho<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Stanford Law School, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA; <sup>2</sup>Department of Political Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA; <sup>3</sup>Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, Stanford, CA, USA. \*e-mail: [cho@law.stanford.edu](mailto:cho@law.stanford.edu)

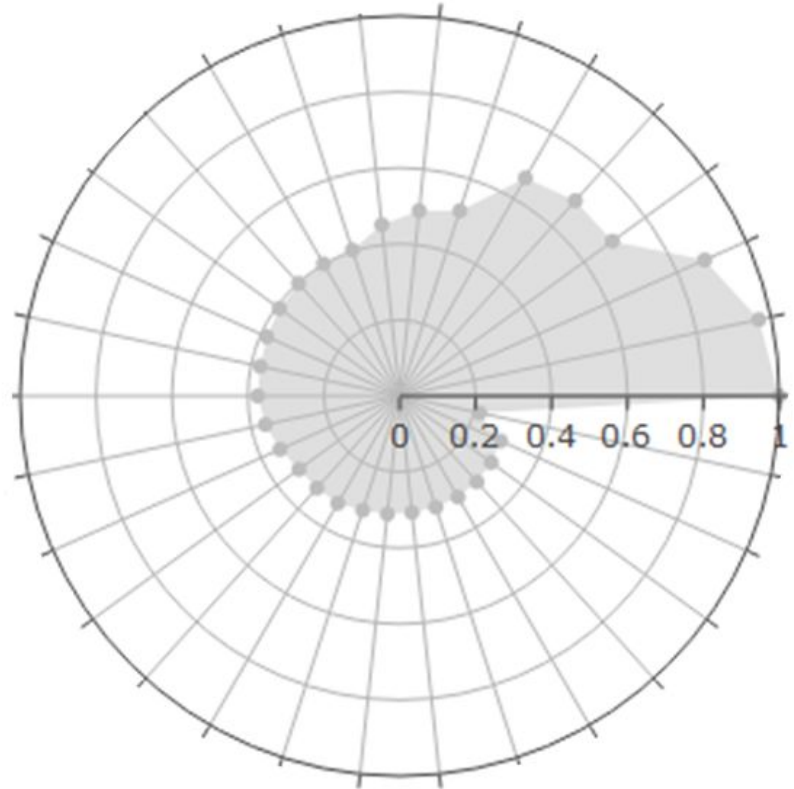


**Stanford:** Handan-Nader and Ho (2019)



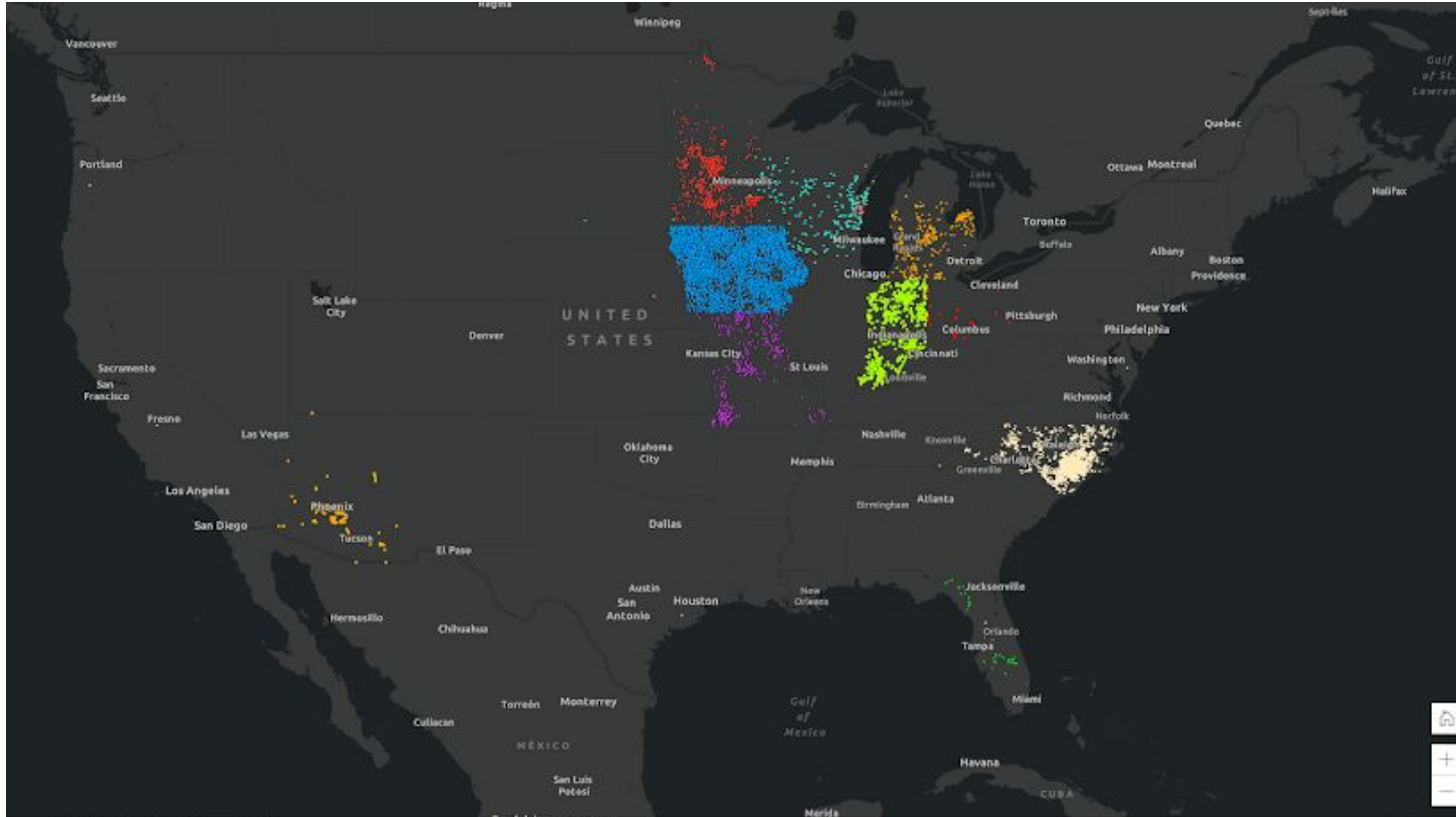
# Approach – Machine Learning (AI)

- Transitioning to new data for machine learning algorithms that allow for assessment across AFO types and regions
  - e.g. not specific to one AFO animal type or one region



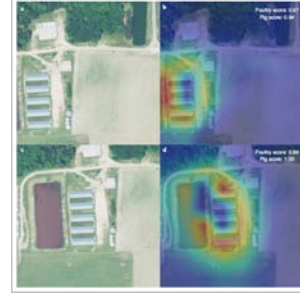
# Continuing the Work

# Database of Known CAFOs

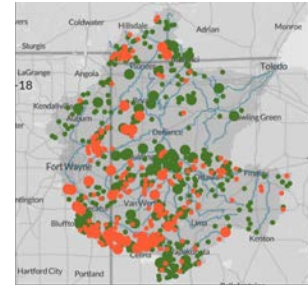


# Unfunded Working Group

- Teaming up with other groups to improve methods and move towards a nationwide database
  - Stanford Group (Dr. Daniel Ho's Lab)
  - Environmental Law & Policy Center
  - Others? Please contact us if interested
- Comparing methods, sharing resources, combining efforts



Stanford: Handan-Nader and Ho (2019)



Environmental Law & Policy Center




**Sustainable  
Phosphorus  
Alliance**

# Concluding Thoughts

- Animal agriculture accounts for a large portion of recoverable P
- To be able to accurately account for them in environmental models or identify recovery options, *we need to know where they are*
- Methods available and motivated group working on it – need funding

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- 2:25-2:45 Closing discussion & raffle!





# Panel Discussion



**Mr. Jeff Dawson, CEO, Renewable Nutrients**

Jeff brings to Renewable Nutrients more than 15 years of experience in the investment and capital markets industry. As CEO, Jeff is responsible for overseeing the development and strategic planning of the company, including market exploration and opportunities for expansion.





# QUICK WASH<sup>®</sup>

- Renewable Nutrients is commercializing a new combined Phosphorus & Ammonia recovery technology.
- The new technology is currently under the design construction phase at a large midwest US municipal waste facility.
- The new Renewable Nutrients technology was recently awarded the national FLC award for excellence in technology transfer.
- Renewable Nutrients is also expanding into the separations market by creating and manufacturing its own technical membrane for use in the new joint Phosphorus and ammonia technology.



# Panel Discussion



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**Mr. Rick Johnson, Director of Commercial Development, Applied Environmental Solutions**

Prior to founding AES, Rick retired from a growing tertiary treatment technology provider focused on phosphorus recovery and has held a number of senior level research and commercial development positions with several Fortune and Global 500 Corporations. In addition, he owns and operates a small family farm in NE Ohio and is a graduate of the US Naval Academy.




**Dr. Aaron Fisher, Technology & Innovation Manager, Water Research Foundation.**

Aaron is responsible for identifying and evaluating innovative water technologies for their suitability to the LIFT program. He previously worked as a contractor to the U.S Department of Energy, authoring the interagency document: Energy-Positive Water Resource Recovery Facility Workshop Report and founded a start-up commercializing polymer-based lithium batteries.



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# Next Speakers



**Mr. Robert Van Spingelen, Director of Business Development EMEA, Ostara**

Robert has over 20 years of experience in the global turf, landscaping and horticulture market, most recently leading product and brand development in the Turf & Landscape segment at ICL Group after its acquisition of the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. He has managed global sales for B2B clients in Southern Europe, Scandinavia, the Mediterranean, Japan and Africa



**Mr. Matt Kuzma, Vice President, Nutrient Recovery Solutions, Ostara**

Matt has more than 25 years of water/wastewater management experience, heavily focused on resource recovery technologies. Companies range from large multinational corporations such as Veolia, to technology start-ups in both North America and Europe. He is currently Ostara's commercial lead for deployment of nutrient recovery technologies at Ostara.





Resources Reimagined™

## **Enhanced Phosphate Fertilizer Production through Nutrient Recovery**

Presented at:  
Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance – Annual Phosphorus Forum 2020





#### INSIGHT

We may be able to substitute nuclear power for coal, and plastics for wood, and yeast for meat, and friendliness for isolation – but for phosphorus there is neither substitute nor replacement.

Isaac Asimov, Author and professor of Biochemistry, Boston University

## Take. Make. Dispose. The Linear Phosphorus Cycle Today

How we manage this indispensable & limited available nutrient will have a direct impact on global water resources and our collective ability to feed the growing population.



# Recover. Regenerate. Reimagine. The Value-Added Future of Phosphorus & Nitrogen.



- Pearl Technology Implementation
- Customer Offtake Revenue
- Reduced Operational Costs

Crystal Green from PEARL is :

- 99% pure mineral
- <1 % organic carbon
- No heavy metals
- No organic contaminants

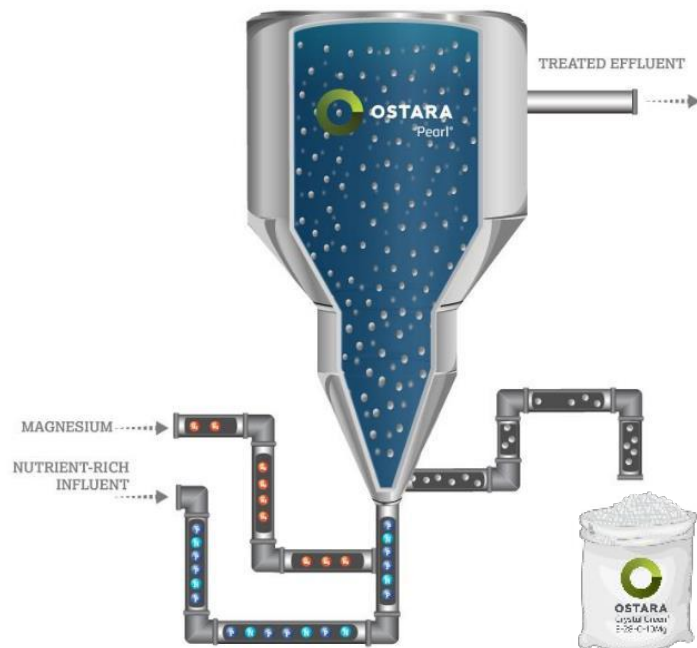
Triple Bottom Line:

- ✓ Environmental Impact
- ✓ Social Impact
- ✓ Economic Impact

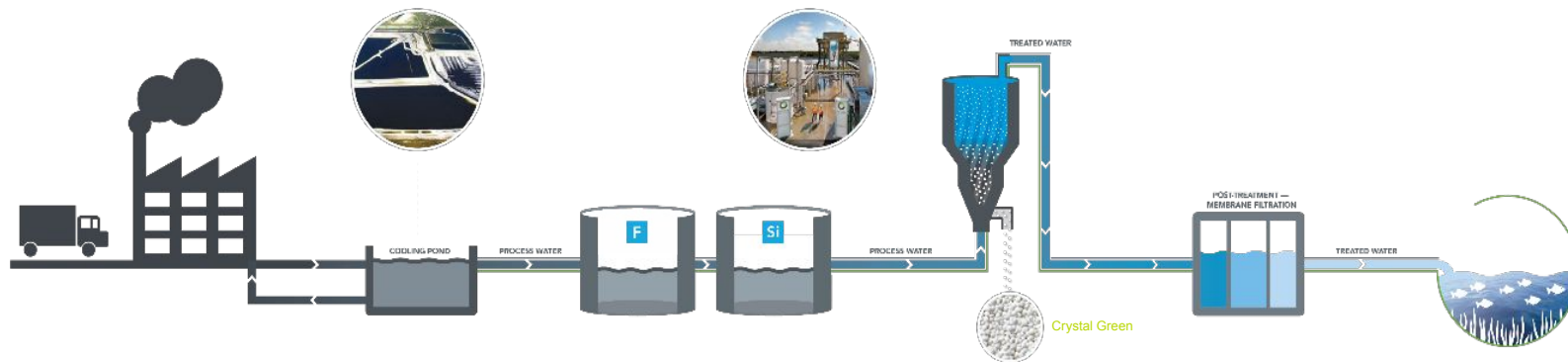
## Product Technology: Pearl Process

Ostara recovers struvite (magnesium ammonia phosphate) – the core of Crystal Green based products - from process water using patented Pearl technology

- Phosphorus, nitrogen, and magnesium are crystallized as a 99% pure form of struvite from nutrient rich water sources in a pH-controlled environment.



# Phosphate Production Site Closure Scenario: Turning A Cost Center Into A Profit Center



## 1 Process Water Influent

Phosphogypsum ponds can contain up to 2 or 3 billion gallons of process water. Before it can be reused or discharged, water must be treated to raise pH levels and to address the dilute mixture of phosphoric, sulfuric, and fluosilicic acids.

## 2 Pre-Treatment FLORIDE & SILICA REMOVAL

Ostara's pre-treatment process significantly reduces the volume of sludge that requires handling

## 3 Nutrient Recovery PHOSPHORUS & NITROGEN REMOVAL

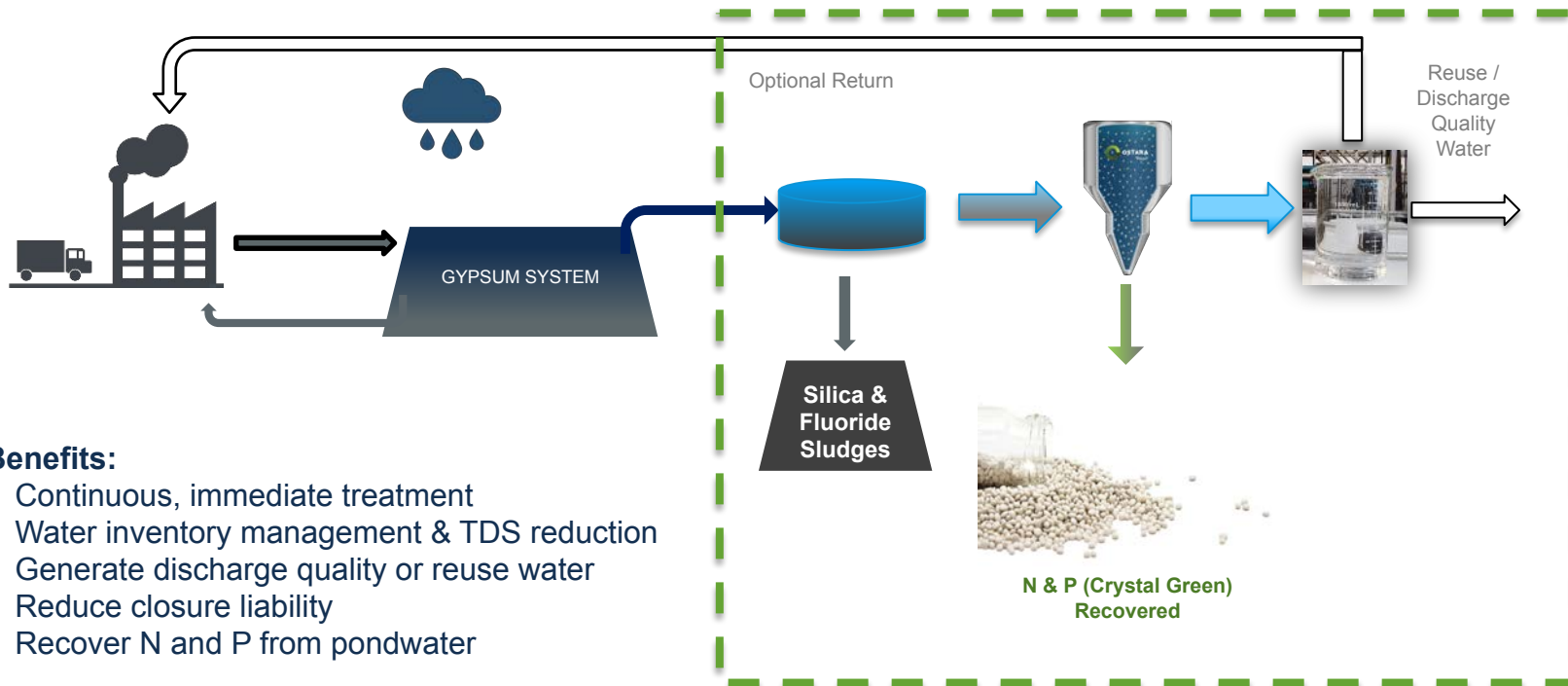
Ostara's proprietary Pearl® technology uses a fluidized bed crystallization reactor to precipitate phosphorus and ammonia from used water streams by adding magnesium. Up to 65% of process water P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> can be recovered

## 4 Post-Treatment MEMBRANE FILTRATION

The Ostara solution consistently produces water that exceeds regulatory requirements, suitable for re-use within the plant or discharged to receiving waters.

# Phosphate Production Site Operating Scenario: Production Facility Integrated with Ostara Treatment

## Ostara Pondwater Treatment Solution



### Benefits:

- ✓ Continuous, immediate treatment
- ✓ Water inventory management & TDS reduction
- ✓ Generate discharge quality or reuse water
- ✓ Reduce closure liability
- ✓ Recover N and P from pondwater



## Discharge Water Quality Exceeding Regulatory Requirements

A cost-effective solution for managing pond water inventories and solids disposal while producing water that meets exacting regulatory challenges.

Parameter	Process Water Influent	Pre-Treatment (F & Si removal)	Pearl Effluent (P & N removal)	Post-Treatment* (membrane filtration)
pH	1.4	6.7	8.1	6.0-8.5
Conductivity (uS/cm)	43,000	32,000	29,000	300
TSS (mg/L)	NA	NA	NA	<1
Ammonia (mg/L as NH <sub>3</sub> -N)	1,000	1,000	200	<1
Fluoride (mg/L)	9,000	100	100	<5
Phosphorus (mg/L)	12,000	2,000	400	<3

\* Post-Treatment discharge quality depends on NF/RO installation used and depends on the local regulatory requirements



## Proven Commercialization of Phosphogypsum Process Water Treatment

### Experience:

- ✓ Successfully commissioned & operated full-scale demonstration nutrient recovery facility at operational fertiliser production facility

### Demonstrated Benefits:

- ✓ Proactively reduce pond water inventory
- ✓ Strong regulatory, social responsibility and environmental benefits
- ✓ Eliminate double-liming closure costs

## Triple Benefits of Ostara Solution

### Status: Plant Closure

- ✓ Proactively & safely manages pondwater volumes and gypsum stack leachate
- ✓ Reduce sludge volumes
- ✓ Proactively meets water discharge quality standards
- ✓ Eliminate double liming closure costs
- ✓ Recover N and P from pond water with guaranteed offtake agreement

### Status: Operational

- ✓ Continuous & immediate treatment solution
- ✓ Reduce water inventory management & total dissolved solids
- ✓ Produce discharge quality or re-use water
- ✓ Reduce closure liability
- ✓ Recover N and P from pond water with guaranteed offtake agreement



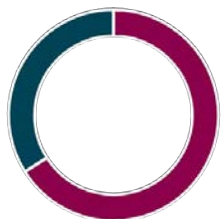
Photos: Demonstration facility at Mosaic, Riverview

## EU “Green Deal” Leading the Way

- Cadmium Limits and other heavy metal limits
- Mandated Recovery of up to 50%
- Amendments to regulations adding recovered phosphate salts to the fertilizer regulations (CMC 12)
- Bans on Microplastics (polymer coatings)
- Cutting CHG emissions, Energy as value, lower CO<sub>2</sub> footprint



## Consumers Trends Are Changing Food & Farming Practices



**66%** of global consumers are willing to pay more for sustainable goods (Nielsen, 2016)



**80%** of millennials (born 1975-1995), are keen to learn more about how their food is produced (Nielsen, 2016)



**73%** of consumers say they would definitely change their consumption habits to reduce their environment impact (Neilson, 2016).



#### INSIGHT

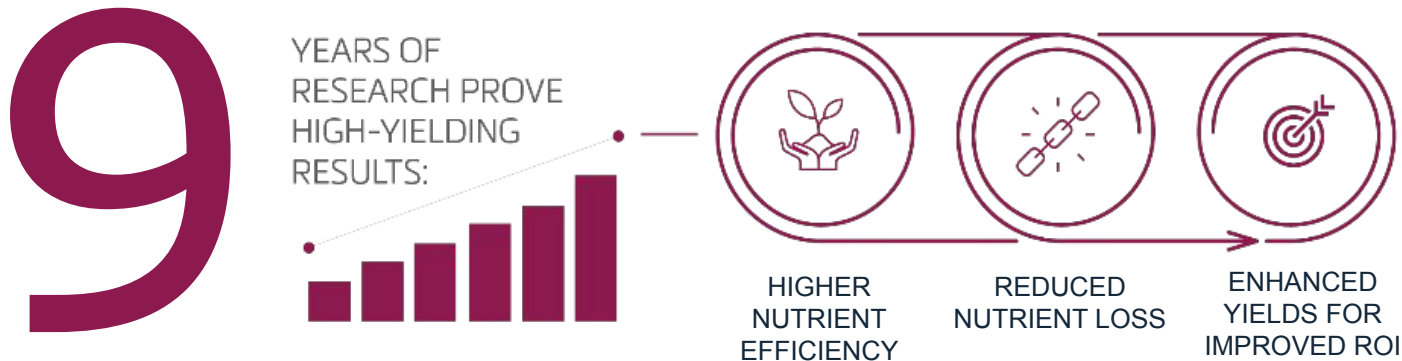
“My son will be the 5th generation [farmer], but none of that will be possible if we don’t utilize new knowledge and products that help us better use our resources.

It’s not just fertilizer.”

Canadian Canola Grower, Crystal Green Customer

## Validated Research Key to Proving Value

Crystal Green is high-quality struvite, made with sustainably recovered phosphorus, nitrogen and magnesium in one powerful continuous release granule (5-28-0-10Mg). Backed by more than 9 years of university and independent field trials globally.







**OSTARA**  
CrystalGreen®

Crystal Green is high-quality struvite made with recovered nutrients (5-28-0-10Mg) and backed by more than 9 years of university and independent field trials globally.

- Phosphate fertilizer
- Root-Activated™ (Citrate Soluble)
- Crystalline, granular
- Lowest Salt Index of any P source

# Putting Plants In Control: Solubility Drives Improved Nutrient Use Efficiency

## How Does Crystal Green Dissolve?



Mined from water, struvite (magnesium ammonium phosphate) is a phosphate mineral that is not soluble in water, but rather in acidic solutions.

**4% Water Soluble**  
**96% Citrate Soluble**



**Crystal Green**

**90% Water Soluble**  
**10% Citrate Soluble**



**MAP**

## Solubility and Low Salt Ensure Seed & Root Safety; Optimized Yield

**Canola root mining into Crystal Green after 7 days.**



**Turf roots growing directly into Crystal Green**



**Turf seeds growing on substrate of 100% Crystal Green.**





## Positive Yield Response Across A Wide Variety of Crops

### OSTARA SIGNATURE CROPS

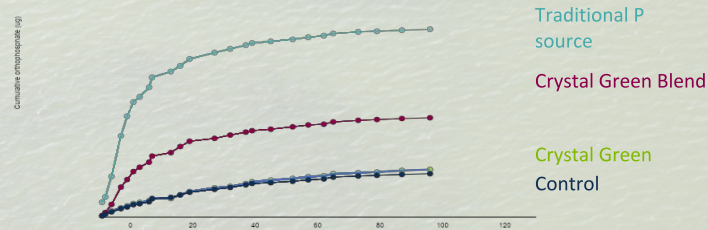
### YIELD INCREASE RANGE: UNIT/HECTARE

	Rapeseed	181.4 kg/hectare
	Spring Wheat	194.8 kg/hectare
	Peas	141.1 kg/hectare
	Lentils	342.7 kg/hectare
	Soy Beans	188.1 kg/hectare
	Corn	530.8 kg/hectare
	Alfalfa	175.9 kg/hectare
	Potato	3.6 mt/hectare
	Sugar Beets	9.7 mt/hectare
	Winter Wheat	255.3 kg/hectare



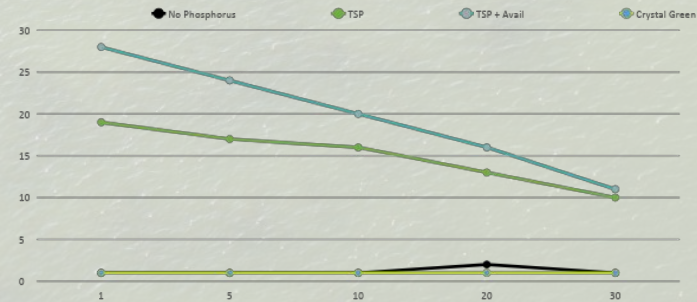
# CRYSTAL GREEN SOLUBILITY: REDUCES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF RUNOFF

## Reduce Leachate from Phosphorus



Cumulative Orthophosphate in Leachate as Affected By P Source Auburn University 2014

## Eliminate Surface P Runoff



Concentrations of phosphorus in runoff during a 30-minute rainfall event after receiving water soluble (TSP) phosphorus, slowly available (Crystal Green) phosphorus and a fertilizer additive (TSP+Avail). Loddington, UK P-Link Project



# Thank you


**Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies Inc.**  
690 - 1199 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, BC V6E 2R1

[mkuzma@ostara.com](mailto:mkuzma@ostara.com)

[rvanspingelen@ostara.com](mailto:rvanspingelen@ostara.com)

ostara.com | crystalgreen.com

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# Breakout Groups

You will be split into rooms of 7-8 for 20 minutes.

Please identify a facilitator from among your group.

Tasks:

1. Introductions: Name, affiliation, very short description of area of interest, and what is the first thing you will do after a covid vaccine?
2. Identify as a group the **most provocative idea you've heard today** regarding nutrient recovery and reuse? Discuss and vote.
3. Try to develop **forward action items** to support this idea. Think about who needs to be involved, how they could be motivated, where the money would come from, barriers and opportunities, how the conference attendees and the Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance might help.
4. Take notes and **paste answers to #2 and #3 in the chat box.**




# Report Out

1. What did you vote your **most provocative idea**?
2. What are your **forward action items**?

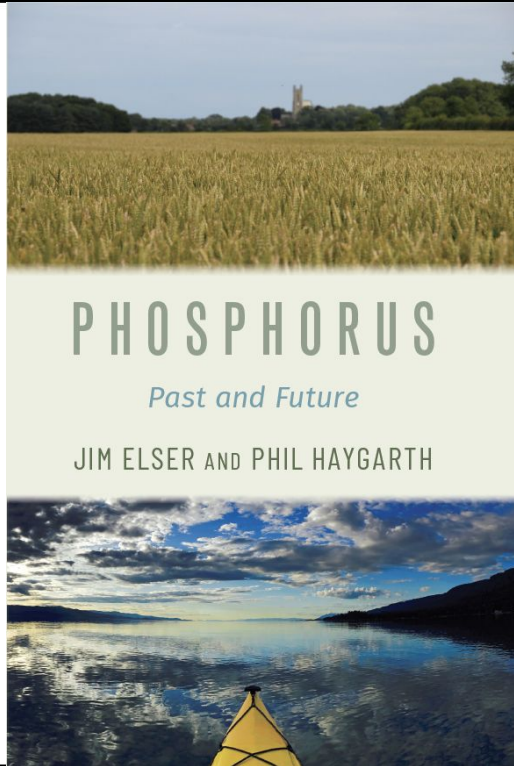


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- 1:00-1:45 Panel on the Economics of Small-Scale P Recovery: Mr. Jeff Dawson, CEO, Renewable Nutrients; Dr. Aaron Fisher, Water Research Foundation and Mr. Rick Johnson, Applied Environmental Solutions
- 1:45-2:05 Mr. Robert van Spingelen, Director of Business Development, and Mr. Matt Kuzma, Vice President, Ostara  
Resources Reimagined: Enhancing Phosphate Production Through Nutrient Recovery
- 2:05-2:25 Breakout rooms
-  2:25-2:45 Closing discussion & raffle!



# Raffle!



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# Concluding Remarks: Don't forget **Day 2!**

- 12:00-12:20 Welcome from the Alliance (Drs. Jim Elser and Matt Scholz)
- 12:20-12:40 Dr. Don Boesch, Professor and President Emeritus, University of Maryland  
Climate Change and Coastal Eutrophication
- 12:40-1:00 Mr. Kerry McNamara, CEO, OCP North America  
Perspective on Phosphorus Sustainability
- 1:00-1:45 Dr. Jon Winsten, Agricultural and Environmental Economist, Winrock International  
Pay-for-Performance Program for Nutrient Pollution Mitigation
- 1:45-2:05 Drs. Carl Bolster and Barret Wessel, USDA-ARS  
Phosphorus Transport Modeling Group Report
- 2:05-2:25 Breakout rooms
- 2:25-2:45 Closing discussion & Raffle!



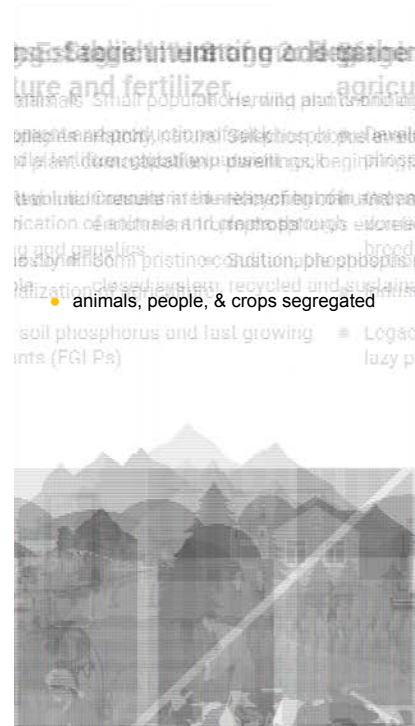
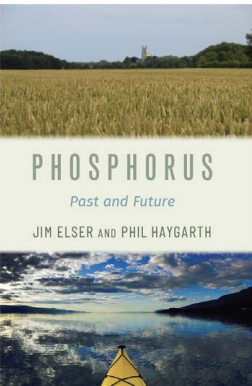
<https://phosphorusalliance.org/phosphorus-forum/>



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# Concluding Remarks: Day 1



- animals, people, & crops segregated

All of us here, together,  
are building Stage 4  
RIGHT NOW.



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# Thanks for coming!



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