

RF-DASH Newsletter



**RF-DASH Trainers Ignite
Safety Training to Prevent
Injuries on Farms**

September 2023

Issue #10

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Free RF-DASH Challenge Coins Available

Camaraderie has always been at the core of the RF-DASH community. To better reflect this, we developed RF-DASH challenge coins to reinforce this value, as well as to connect existing members and create a sense of unity among emergency responders and farmers/ranchers. As the RF-DASH network continues to expand, these challenge coins will become valuable tools in forging stronger bonds between Fire/EMS departments and the agricultural community. To get your free RF-DASH challenge coin, please reach out to rfdash@marshfieldresearch.org with your name, address, and how many you would like. We also have RF-DASH patches that are available for

distribution. As the RF-DASH community continues to thrive, we hope these will help in fostering new relationships and building upon current ones.

RF-DASH Challenge Coin



Chief Carey Promotes Fundraising for Slow-Moving Vehicle Signs

Tim Carey is the Fire Chief of the Stratford Fire Department and long time member of the RF-DASH program. The campaign, led by the National Farm Medicine Center and the Auction of Champions, aims to provide farmers with new slow-moving vehicle signs. This is not only a testament to Chief Carey's dedication to public safety, but also a reminder of the vital role that local leaders play in fostering safer communities.

His motivation for promoting this initiative is spearheaded by his response and powerful prevention message to a

fatal incident in 2019 between a tractor and milk truck (<https://shorturl.at/epV04>), after recently attending an RF-DASH training.

Thanks to the Auction of Champion donors, National Farm Medicine Center, and Chief Carey's speech, over \$40,000 was successfully raised to provide farmers and ranchers with free SMV signs, increasing roadway safety.



By Kyle Koshalek, Project Manager at the National Farm Medicine Center



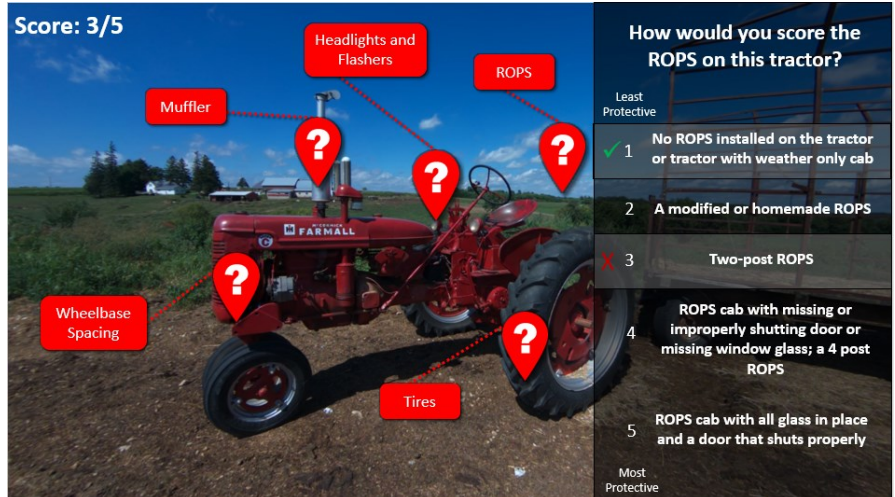
Chief Carey gives speech introducing SMV sign initiative at Auction of Champions event in Wisconsin.

Virtual Heroes: Revolutionizing RF-DASH and Ag Rescue Through the Development of a 360 Training Program

The agriculture industry is vital for sustaining rural communities worldwide, but it also presents unique challenges when it comes to emergency response. First responders in rural areas must be prepared to handle a wide range of incidents, especially on farms. To bridge the gap between theory and practical training, a revolutionary new technology in the RF-DASH program is emerging - the development of 360° training programs for emergency responders operating in the agricultural environment.

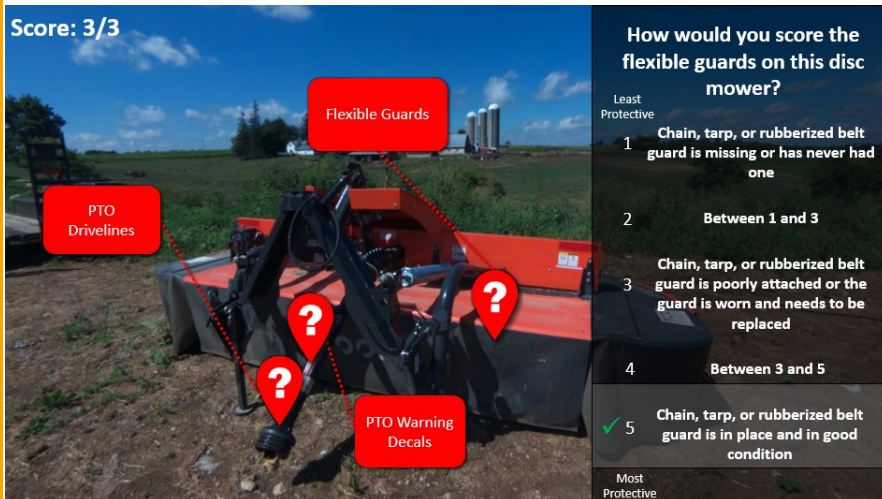
Enthusiasm for the RF-DASH program has remained strong. We've had requests to do new trainings in Indiana, Illinois, New York, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Canadian provinces. Further, given the large volume of material covered in a typical one-day RF-DASH training, we've received feedback that past trainees would welcome refresher courses. Some—but not all—of the requests for new and refresher training courses have been met.

To help meet the strong demand for RF-DASH trainings both nationally and internationally, the



development of the online training will include all of the modules covered at an in-person RF-DASH training, presented in an interactive format. The online course will be available for new and current RF-DASH members.

A key element of the online training course will be a virtual farm walk-through. The team will use a special camera to capture 360-degree images of farms. These images will be imported into 3DVista, a software program typically used to create immersive, 360-degree virtual tours. The software will allow us to overlay tags/markers, audio and visual media, web links, and other items directly onto the 360-degree images.



Once the virtual farm walk-through is completed, trainees will be able to move from point to point on a farm and look around in all directions. For example, they will be able to virtually 'walk' from one end of a farmyard to another, looking at a hay shed on the left, a silo on the right, and a barn straight ahead. Different icons could be clicked to reveal information about specific buildings or to indicate how they would be mapped using Farm MAPPER. Trainees will be able to enter a toolshed and look

RF-DASH

around while listening to a recording of one of the Master Trainers

talking about the hazards in the area. Trainees could even complete a practice Safer Farm form and then get an explanation about why, for example, electrical wiring in the building received a score of 2 instead of a 4 on the form.

Part of the walk-through experience could also be gamified using the 3DVista features. For example, trainees could be given a 360-degree image of a tractor—so that they could view it from all angles—and be told to identify five hazards associated with the tractor by clicking on them. When they successfully click on a hazard, they get a pop-up that gives an overview of the hazard and provides risk mitigation information. Once the trainee successfully identified five of the tractor hazards, they could move on to another piece of equipment or a building or a manure pit to identify the hazards there.

Additionally, we will be developing a separate 360 course involving the Agriculture Rescue Training. Participants will be able to virtually learn about and experience the procedures and steps to successfully rescue someone involved in a tractor rollover, grain bin entrapment, silo rescue, machinery equipment

extrication, and large animal rescue. This will further increase the reach of the Agriculture Rescue Training program to interested departments and organizations looking to beef up their knowledge and expertise in emergency response.

The online training courses will make RF-DASH and the Agriculture Rescue Training available to a much broader audience, helping spread the programs to places where an in-person training is not possible or feasible. While we hold that the in-person experience cannot be fully replaced by a virtual version, we are also excited about the possibilities opened up by the applications of these novel technologies.



By Jakob Hanschu, Research Specialist and Kyle Koshalek, Project Manager at the National Farm Medicine Center

Items Mapped: 4/13

Select from the following icons below:

- ⚡ OFF
- 🐄
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- 🚗
- ⚡ OFF
- 🔥
- 🏠
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- MANURE
- STAGING AREA

Correct!
Power Shut Off

Keep the utilities information up to date on the form. Most don't change very often, but you certainly don't want to be caught off guard if they do.

Its important to get utilities under control right away. Identify as many electric power shut offs as possible: Is there a central pole shut down? If so, great, but on larger complexes you will find that this often does not shut off everything. In that case, we need to identify individual controls in each building. Today, you're going to find them in a variety of places.

AGRICULTURE RESCUE TRAINING

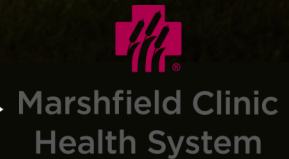
October 20-21, 2023



REGISTER NOW
AGRESCUE.org



If you're not there, who will be?



CEUs

Certificates validating 9.5 hours of CEUs upon completion, pre/post test questions, and evaluation of the program will be awarded.

Workshops

- Large Animal Rescue
- Farm Familiarization
- Tractor Rollover
- Equipment Extrication
- Silo Rescue
- Grain Bin Rescue

Location

October 20 will be a virtual & live presentation format. October 21 will be held at the Heiman Holstein's dairy farm in Marshfield, WI.

Train-the-Trainer

October 20 we will be offering the second annual Train-the-Trainer course, equipping you with info on how to organize and conduct your very own Ag Rescue Training.

If your department brings 3 or more personnel, you will receive a complimentary four gas monitor, courtesy of the Mike Biadasz Memorial Fund

Spotlight Story

RF-DASH Trainers Ignite Safety Training to Prevent Injuries on Farms

Jakob Hanschu interviews RF-DASH champions Justin and Amanda Norr about their experience with the program. Justin and Amanda farm and work in Utah.

Jakob Hanschu: How long have you been involved with the firefighter/EMS scene?

Justin Norr: I joined the fire department in February 2017, got my EMT shortly after, firefighter the next year, and firefighter instructor in 2019. EMS instructor didn't come until 2021.

Amanda Norr: I joined the department later in 2017, got all my fire and Hazmat certs in 2018, did my EMT in 2019, and instructor in 2020. And, as a side note, my grandfather was an active firefighter for 50 years.

JH: Sounds like you're continuing that tradition.

AN: I mean it's not like I woke up and thought "I'm gonna do that". Things just lined up and it happened, and I think I'm kind of proud. I was proud of my grandpa and now I'm doing what he did.

JH: Was there anything specific that led you to get involved with fire/EMS?

AN: It's interesting. Justin joined the department and later that year, I was driving down the road with my daughter and the mountain was on fire and I had this voice pop in my head and say "Someday you're gonna be doing that". And I was like, "What? No." Two months later, I was on the department.



Teaching first responders about baler mechanics and how to untangle someone. *Photo courtesy of Dr. Michael Pate.*

JH: How about how about you, Justin?

JN: My dad volunteered for the local ski resort for twenty or so years. As a kid, I was a great live mannequin and always enjoyed the first aid aspect of things growing up.

The mayor contacted me in 2016 and asked if I'd join the department. Some things pointed that way and I was like "Okay, I can do this. I can help my community out." So, I joined.

JH: You farm as well. Is there any background to your farming operation that you'd like to mention?

JN: I grew up farming. I'm a 5th generation farmer. We were a dairy operation but now we are just crop farmers. We run roughly 920 acres of alfalfa, corn silage, triticale, and other forage crops.

JH: Given your backgrounds in farming and firefighting, what drew you to RF-DASH?

JN: We saw the need of it. Some folks from Idaho that had been involved with RF-DASH reached out and really wanted somebody from Utah to come to their training. We decided to fly out to the training because we see the need. We've seen it at our farm. We've seen it at neighboring farms.

AN: And, as a part of Farm Bureau we hear about incidents all over the state.

JN: We're also seeing more farm incidents as people move from the city to rural areas: People trying to pass around a tractor thinking "Oh I can get around him and down the road before this oncoming car," and then you've got multiple vehicles in a crash.



Amanda and Justin Norr after flag ceremony during Utah's celebration of pioneers.

RF-DASH



AEMT students learning how to deal with a patient in a coral with a dangerous animal. *Photo courtesy of Dr. Michael Pate.*

AN: We just had a kid on department from Salt Lake with no knowledge of farming. It's difficult because we do respond to a lot of farm incidents, and it is a lot different than responding on the freeway. When we learned about RF-DASH it just fit because of where we live and what we do.

JH: When did you first get involved with RF-DASH?

JN: Our first training was in September 2019 in Minnesota. Since then we've done what we could.

JH: Would you say that you've been pretty steady since 2019, other than COVID derailing some efforts?

AN: Yeah, because we've done trainings. We did our fire department. We've done other fire departments. This January we did an RF-DASH breakout session at the state leadership Farm Bureau Winter Conference.

JH: What is the most important thing about the RF-DASH mission to you?

AN: I think it's bridging that gap. As responders you need to know how to respond and what to watch for. It's also helping farmers help the responders help them. For example, we printed off some cards of tips for farmers when they call 911: Be sure to state these things so that when the responders are coming, they have a better idea of the situation.

JN: To me it's helping farmers and responders understand each other's worlds. We use a lot of the same terms, but it's like speaking French and Spanish—we're saying the same thing but the words are a little different. I think, too, of the safety factor. As responders we wanna mitigate whatever's going on for the farmer as quick as we can. But, in doing so, there things we can do that will help the farmer in the long run. Like, as a firefighter, you've trained

to use the Jaws of Life and shears, but being able to use a toolkit and undo a few bolts to take the tension off of something is just as fast as trying to cut something up.

AN: And by doing so, you're preserving the farmer, their funds, and their time.

JN: With farmers, a piece of equipment is part of their livelihood, and that's what first responders don't always think about, because they think of Jaws of Life and getting somebody out of a vehicle. Well, a car can be easily replaced. You cut up the tractor and that could mean the farmer isn't able to get crops harvested. It's an expense that's not easily replaced. There's one other thing I think of with RF-DASH, and it's what an old fire captain told me once: "We don't want to take victims to the scene of an accident in the form of first responders."

JH: That's a great quote. The next part of this interview will focus on the training that you did with Dr. Michael Pate from Utah State University. Can you give some background on how that training came about and what all that entailed?

JN: Two years ago, a coordinator in our county was doing an EMT class and asked us to teach some lessons. We introduced her to RF-DASH and she wanted us to do a whole session on it. The training we did this spring was with the same coordinator but at the advanced level. We were able to bring 10 students to the farm. They were all local fire and EMS that might respond to a rural incident. We divided the students into smaller groups and then rotated them through a half-dozen scenarios.

AN: We had one where we used an old mini four-wheeler and set it up with a child mannequin to look like the kid had driven under the tractor.

JN: The scenario was that the farmer was making a left hand



Training scenario where a child operating an ATV is trapped under a tractor. *Photo courtesy of Dr. Michael Pate.*

RF-DASH

turn into his farm yard and the local kid comes screaming down the road on his little ATV and gets trapped underneath. It was a totally viable scenario that could happen to any of the people in the class, so we made them run through it.

AN: Another scenario was a chemical combination in the washroom. So, not only did they have to figure out how to help the patient, but they also couldn't go in and be a victim to the same chemical gas.

JN: There were bailer entrapment and grain bin rescue scenarios, too. It was all stuff that they haven't ever done or dealt with and it's the not something that you think about until it happens.

AN: We also had a PTO entanglement demonstration where we activate the PTO and throw coveralls stuffed with straw on it and let it shred it.

JN: They thoroughly ate it up. They loved it.

AN: They said it was one of the best trainings that they they'd had because it helped them realize what they didn't know and got them familiar with farm equipment and potential farm hazards.

JH: Did you incorporate RF-DASH content into the training at all? What did that look like?

JN: We definitely did because we talked about knowing your facility and using the RF-DASH Farm MAPPER or just going to your local farmer and making that connection with them so that that they're not hesitant when you show up.

JH: Do you have any future plans, trainings, or other RF-DASH activities on your agenda?

JN: Actually, we're doing one on the 9th of August for our department. They're gonna bring the ambulance crew over and we'll run through some farm scenarios. We're just trying to reach out where we can and teach where we can.

AN: We're also working with Farm Bureau again. After we did our initial RF-DASH session, they wanted something more hands-on about what farmers can do while waiting for EMS to get there. So, we're working on a more hands-on thing for farmers.

JH: Lastly, how useful has the RF-DASH program been for you, considering both trainings and responses to farm incidents?

AN: For me, it's awareness. I grew up on my grandpa's farm, and I've been married to a farmer for a really long time, but I don't actively do a lot of the farming, so I can get oblivious or forget things. Teaching RF-DASH trainings and planning things reminds me of the things to be aware of on a farm.

JN: For me, it's a platform to build on and start from. It helps fire/EMS understand what they're dealing with. It helps them think about doing facility pre-planning and getting that communication going on between farmers and first responders. Like, "Okay, we show up we know we've got a water source here" or "Okay, we gotta come over here and hit this breaker switch but then there's another one in that building that that we need to go do."

AN: One thing I always try to explain to farmers is that it takes time to get out to many farms. In an emergency, 30 second can feel like 3 hours. So, I try to give the farmers things that they could think about and do to prepare for the responders to come so that they're not just standing there waiting.

JH: I think the bit about what farmers can do in that wait time is so essential. Is there anything else you'd like to add to the interview?

AN: One thing I would add is that when you go through and do trainings you've gotta take the basic stuff and personalize it to your own area. You've got to make it relevant to where you are at.

JN: I just want to say that I'm really appreciative of the RF-DASH program. The thing I think of maybe expanding on is remembering our farming communities. Our farmers are doing the best they can on a very limited budget just to feed us every day. We've got to remember that they're just trying to make a living feeding us.



By Jakob Hanschu, Research Specialist at the National Farm Medicine Center



PLANNING EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT RESPONSE (PELTR)

October 2023 PELTR course taking enrollments with the option of completing the course at one of two in-person sessions:

- Wausau at the North Central Technical College Agriculture Center of Excellence, 6625 Co Rd K, Wausau, WI 54401 held in conjunction with their Agriculture Safety Day on October 9. **Enroll by Sept 18**.
- Barron Equity Co-Op Livestock Sales, 1684 13 1/2 Ave, Barron, WI 54812 on Oct 26 or 27 (the date is still being finalized). **Enroll by October 10**.



Class size is limited to the first 15 paid participants - don't wait to register!

PLANNING EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT RESPONSE (PELTR)

Who should take this course?

- Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement/State Patrol/Dispatchers
- County Highway Department & Emergency Management
- Public Health and Safety Communicators
- Governmental Administrators
- Veterinarians
- Those experienced in handling livestock who may provide planning assistance

Course Goals

Participants share the information with their organization/department's members to develop and improve their toolbox for responding to livestock transportation crashes. Topics covered include:

- Livestock behavior in times of stress
- Principles of animal handling & movement
- Biosecurity issues
- Euthanasia and handling scene mortalities



Cost: \$50

Self-paced virtual (UW-Madison Canvas) course with one-half day, in-person session. Registered participants can access one of two in-person sessions and a hard copy manual.

In-Person Sessions

- October 9, in Wausau, held in conjunction with NTC Ag Safety Day
- October 26 or 27 (TBD), in Barron

Educational Credits

Emergency response personnel will be awarded eight (8) hours educational units (CEU) for completing this program.

Register & Pay at:
<http://bit.ly/PELTR>

Deadline to enroll
Sept. 18 for Oct. 9 session
Oct. 10 for Oct. 26/27 session

You are expected to have completed, at minimum, modules 1-3 before attending your in-person session.

Welcoming New RF-DASH Trainers

Farmers and ranchers face a diverse range of potential hazards, from heavy machinery operation to chemical exposures and unpredictable livestock behavior. Preventing and responding to such emergencies requires a unique skill set and specialized knowledge that goes beyond traditional emergency response training. On August 12th, 16 emergency responders recognized the need for a targeted training, equipping them to effectively respond and prevent emergencies in agricultural settings.

Just outside of La Crosse, Wisconsin, the RF-DASH team collaborated with Gundersen Health System and Cashton Fire Department to equip Wisconsin Fire/EMS with the RF-DASH program. Trainees were informed of the types of common emergencies on farms, risk assessment and farm hazard identification, equipment and machinery safety, farm first aid, and preplanning emergency responses. Special thanks to Megan Anderson and Tyler Mlsna for hosting and helping organize the training.

“Training was excellent! I do a lot of training for farm incident responses, but I like the proactive work instead of my reactive trainings,” said one trainee after attending the course.

RF-DASH was recently awarded a small, 18-month grant that will support program implementation and dissemination throughout Wisconsin. The grant also provides funds to further enhance program sustainability by creating a cost-effective dissemination model as well as virtual training options to increase program reach. The goal is to make RF-DASH self-sustaining by charging a small fee for in-person and virtual training registrations.

By equipping responders with the right knowledge



New RF-DASH trainee’s working with Dr. Dennis Murphy on identifying hazards on a tractor.

New RF-DASH Members

Megan Anderson, Gundersen Health System	Matthew Steele, Fort McCoy Fire Dept.
Tyler Mlsna, Cashton Fire Dept. / Farmer	Cory Semling, Trempealeau Fire Dept.
Tome Kuse, Embarrass Fire Dept.	Trey Manthey, Hatfield Fire Dept.
Dakota Maynard, Embarrass Fire Dept.	Rebecca Berg-Shramek, Hatfield Fire Dept.
Craig Schendel, Fort McCoy Fire Dept.	Michalina Smythe, Wheatland First Responders
Glen Oliphant, La Farge Area Ambulance	Lance Luther, Western Technical College
Mike Huber, Sparta Ambulance	Steven Christensen, Yuba Fire Department
Jeff Dias, Yuba Fire Department	*Gary Eloranta, River Falls Fire Department

*Current member completing refresher on RF-DASH

and skills, RF-DASH can ensure that they are well-prepared to protect agricultural communities from injuries and fatalities on farms.



By Kyle Koshalek, Project Manager at the National Farm Medicine Center

Welcome New RF-DASH Trainers —Photos



RF-DASH Materials Update

This page will announce any updates/revisions or new releases for materials and tools within the RF-DASH program.

Updates

1. Module 4– Farm First Aid Additional Materials from Penn State University is now up on the RF-DASH website. <https://shorturl.at/FGINT>
2. Module 4– Farm First Aid– Extended Manual from Penn State University is now up on the RF-DASH website in the resources tab. <https://rb.gy/6vsym>
3. Module 4– Farm First Aid– Various Scenarios from Penn State University are now available on the RF-DASH website:

Module 4- Conventional Silos: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/F.Conventional-Silos-37-42.ppt>

Module 4- Oxygen Limiting Silos: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/E.Oxygen-Limiting-Silos-34-36.ppt>

Module 4- Grain Bin: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/D.Grain-Bin-26-33.ppt>

Module 4- Machinery Entanglement: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/C.Machinery-Entanglement-21-25.ppt>

Module 4- PTO Entanglements: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/B.PTO-Entanglements-13-20.ppt>

Module 4- Tractor Overturn: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/A.Tractor-Overturn-1-12.ppt>

Module 4- Post Hole Digger Emergencies: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/P.Post-Hole-Digger-Emergencies.ppt>

Module 4- Skid Steer Emergencies: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/O.Skid-Steer-Emergencies.ppt>

Module 4- Logging Emergencies: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/N.Logging-Emergencies.ppt>

Module 4- Livestock Emergencies: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/M.Livestock-Emergencies.ppt>

Module 4- Reporting Farm emergencies
_overhead: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/L.Reporting-Farm-emergencies-overhead-69.ppt>

Module 4- Electrical Emergencies: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/K.Electrical-Emergencies-65-68.ppt>

Module 4- Chemicals: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/J.Chemicals-55-64.ppt>

Module 4- Manure Storage Tank: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/I.Manure-Storage-Tank-51-54.ppt>

Module 4- Manure Storage Pond: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/H.Manure-Storage-Pond-47-50.ppt>

Module 4- Manure Storage: <https://rfdash.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/G.Manure-Storage-43-46.ppt>



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