Being a Good Neighbor…

Today, more than ever, it is necessary for agricultural producers to “be a good neighbor.” This involves handling manure in an environmentally sound manner, maintaining farm structures, portraying a positive image of your farm, and maintaining good public relations with neighbors and community members.

Manure Handling
Proper handling of manure is essential for all producers. Manure should be applied according to the crop needs and nutrient content of the manure and soil to reduce potential losses of nutrients. Manure storage structures should be properly maintained and managed to prevent losses of manure from the structure.

If possible, manure should be hauled from the farm using a route that minimizes travel where many people will view the transportation of the manure. Manure application equipment should not be overfilled if travel is necessary on major roads since spillage or splashing may occur.

Farm Appearance
Being a good neighbor also means portraying a positive image of your production system to neighbors and passers by. Maintaining buildings, keeping the lawn trimmed and even planting flowers will make your production system visually appealing and portray the message that you are conscientious about every aspect of your operation.

Community Relations
Being involved with your community can be an excellent way to improve the public’s perception of your farming operation. By encouraging neighbors to ask questions about your operation and voice concerns, you can learn how to positively influence the public’s opinion of your operation.

There are many other ways to become active in the community and evoke a positive image of your operation. One way may be to invite classes from the local school to tour the farm and learn about milk production. Donating time to local events helps demonstrate your dedication to your community and improves your relationship with neighbors and other community members.