

## Excel formatting and utility spreadsheet examples

By Bill Lazarus, 1/14/09

***Manurwkst\_Classic.Xls*** and ***Manurwkst.Xls***, by Bob Koehler and Bill Lazarus – two versions of a spreadsheet to determine whether manure will make a positive cash flow contribution to a livestock/farming operation, or whether it will result in a net cost to the livestock operation. The calculations can also assist crop and livestock producers attempting to fix values on manure that may be transferred or sold from one entity to another. ***Manurwkst.Xls*** is intended to be more user-friendly than the older “classic” version, with fewer numbers on the screen, help screens, a set of FAQs, ability to compare multiple scenarios, and other features.

***Grain Truck Transportation Cost Calculator***, by William Edwards, Iowa State University Extension - Simple decision tool. Clearly delineates the input cells and calculated cells. Uses colors, font types and sizes, embedded hyperlink and graphic. Measurement units for the input cells are clear. Prints nicely on one page. From the Iowa Ag Decision Maker website <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>.

***Conditional\_formatting.xls*** - We frequently need to plan how we are going to allocate our time among various project. This is a “quick and dirty” time sheet to record which projects the user worked on each day, and how the quarterly totals compare with the planned allocation. Each day’s time can be split among six projects, but the percentages should add up to 1 for each day. Excel’s conditional formatting is used with the formula option to show each day’s column in white when the fractions are entered correctly, and red otherwise.

***Transpose\_authors3.xls*** – I use a bibliographic database called Procite to maintain a database of publications I have read and might want to refer back to in the future. It works great, but the author names must be entered last name first, with double slashes between names. Most publications list the author names with the first name first. This spreadsheet uses Excel’s text manipulation function MID along with IF statements to identify the last names in a list of authors separated with commas or “and”s, and rearranges them in the proper order for me to copy them to my database.

***Digester\_econ.xls*** (see the “Start\_w\_One\_Scenario” sheet, and enable macros) – When you select a gas use option from the combo box in cell C7, it runs a macro that hides a few of the rows that are not relevant to the alternative you selected. It also copies and then deletes some data from the hidden rows that would otherwise mess up the calculations.

***BioPET*** - Large and complicated spreadsheet for evaluating alternative electricity generation feedstocks and power plant types. It has a lot of nice formatting and operational features. One feature is the navigation bar on the left side made up of hyperlinks. Also, under feedstock characteristics, it uses the INDIRECT function to bring in default data from a separate database, so the user can either keep it or write over it with new data. It also keeps logs of the alternatives analyzed, for later analysis. Available as a zipped file from [http://www.mncee.org/public\\_policy/renewable\\_energy/biomass/index.php](http://www.mncee.org/public_policy/renewable_energy/biomass/index.php).