

Pot of Gold is Where?

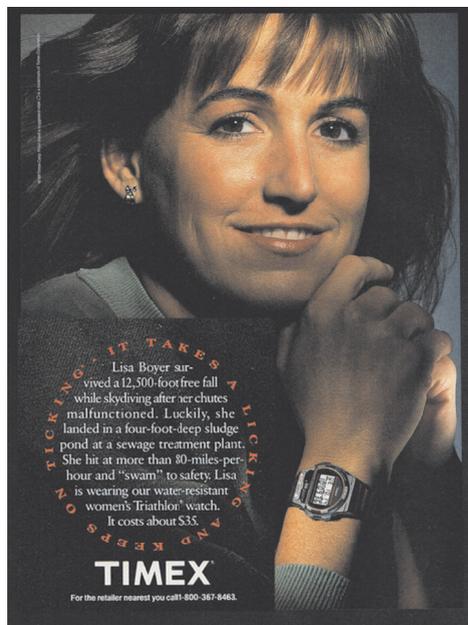
by Sherry Bock

Benefits of Biosolids

Recently I received an e-mail from Darcey Thoen from the Moorhead Wastewater Treatment Facility. The subject line was, “Pot of gold is where?” At first I thought that his account was hacked and the e-mail spam! I was prepared to have to contact him to alert him about this spam e-mail. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I opened it up to see a picture of their Facility with a rainbow heading directly towards the digester. I shared the picture



with Steve Stark (for those that may not know Steve, he works for the MPCA, sits next to me, and has many years of experience with biosolids both with the MPCA and also with the Metropolitan Council) and he quickly came back with a picture of a lady wearing a Timex watch. Now what did the lady with the Timex have to do with the rainbow? Well, the lady, Lisa Boyer, was saved while skydiving by falling in a “sludge pond.”



At this point you are probably thinking, “where is she even going with this?” Well, both got me thinking about all the benefits of biosolids. At any point, you should be able to talk with your coworkers, city administration, farmers, the public, your family (yes the in-laws) etc. about the benefits of biosolids. There is liquid (or solid) gold at the end of that rainbow!

In addition to nice pictures and saving lives, here are more benefits of biosolids:

- Increased crop production;
- Contains macro and micronutrients like, but not limited to, nitrogen, phosphorus, copper, zinc, and iron;
- The organic nitrogen and phosphorus are less likely to leach compared to commercial fertilizer;
- Increases soil organic matter;
- Increases microbial activity;
- Helps prevent soil erosion;
- Lower cost for the farmer;
- Is used to reclaim mine lands;
- Is used to increase forestry production;
- Conserves landfill space;

Be sure when you talk about the benefits of biosolids, keep it simple and keep it relevant to who you are talking with!

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