

# Surface Runoff from Manured Cropping Systems Assessed by the Paired-Watershed Method, Part 2: Pathogen Transport

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# Manure's Double-Edged Sword

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## Manure as Asset



Manure field-application is a cost-effective and sustainable approach for optimal soil tilth and fertility

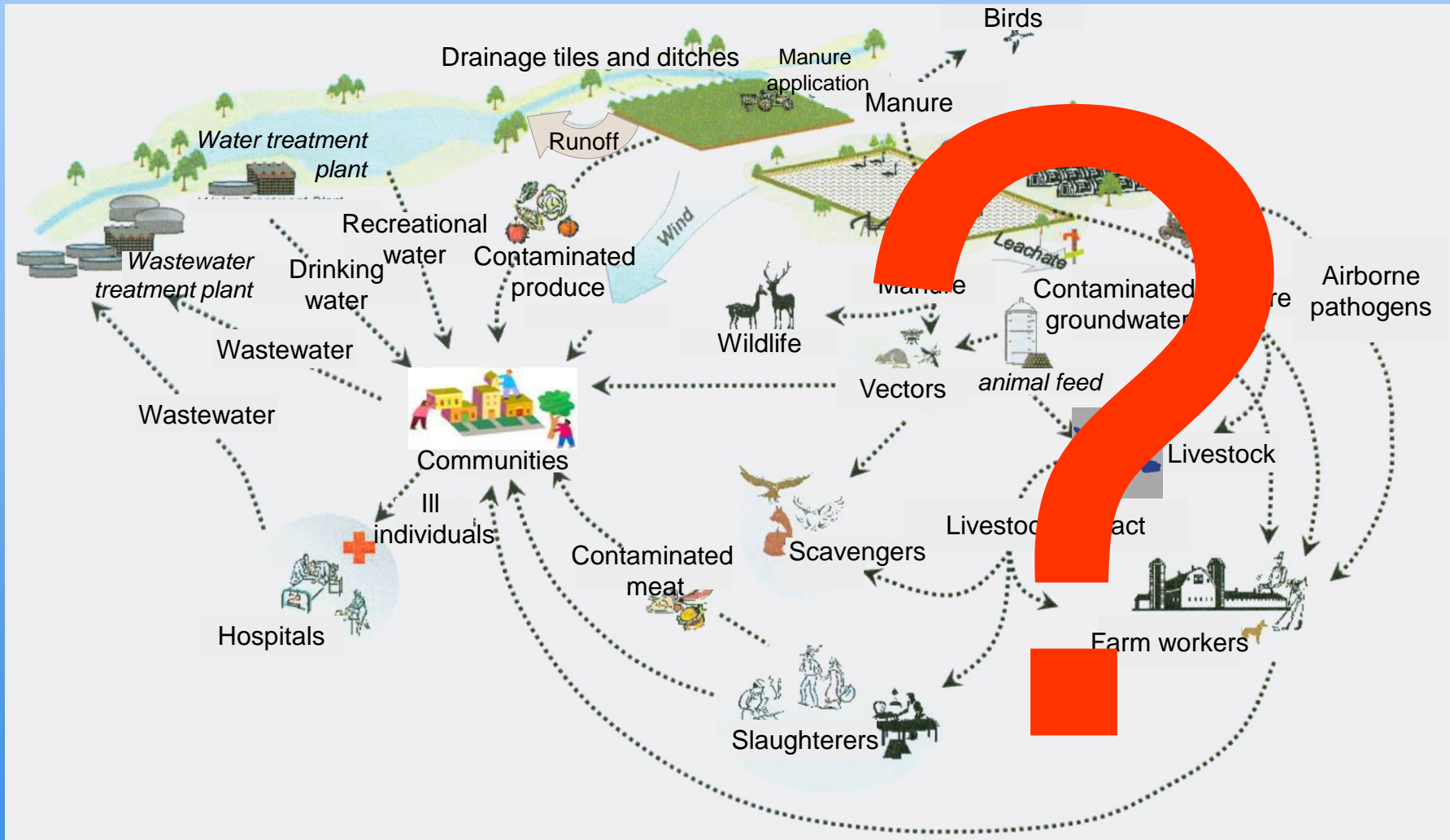
## Manure as Liability



Manure may contain pathogens harmful to both humans and livestock

Societal goal: Maximize the beneficial uses of manure while minimizing environmental pathogen transmission

# Human and Livestock Pathogen Movement in the Environment



# Study Objectives

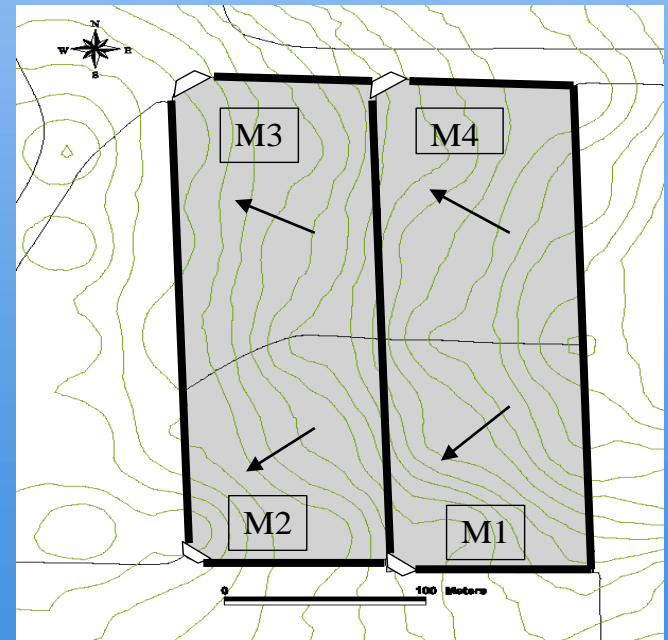
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1. Quantify bovine pathogens in runoff from manure-applied fields
2. Identify cropping, tillage, and manure application practices that minimize pathogen runoff

# Field Site



- UW/USDA-ARS Research Station, Marshfield, WI.
- Withee silt loam, 1-3% slope
- Surface drainage using drive-through diversion pathways and berms
- Each field about 4 acres, cropped in corn
- Manure application once per year, about 5,800 gals/acre





# Runoff Monitoring Stations

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H-flume: stage measured using bubble-pressure transducer

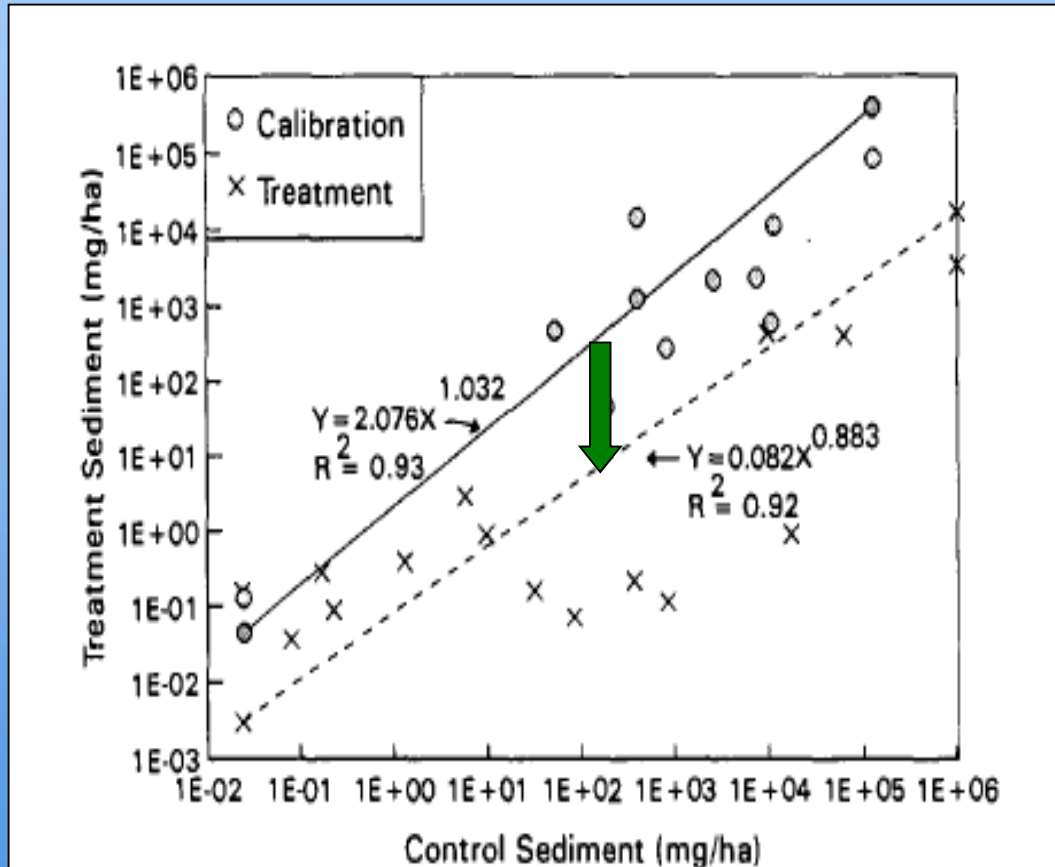
Pathogens: refrigerated glass wool filtration; event-based sampling, not flow-weighted; qPCR measurements

Nutrients, sediment, and indicator *E.coli*: automated refrigerated sampler with time-based sampling

Controlled remotely by radio telemetry



# Study Design – Paired Watershed



The relationship between two watersheds (i.e., fields) is compared between two time periods, calibration and treatment periods.

Any shift in the regressions represents the treatment effect.

Example from Clausen et al. 1996

# Treatments (Oct 2008 – April 2012)

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Fall Manure/Chisel  
Plow, Spring Cultivate  
(Control, Field 1)



Fall Manure/Chisel  
Plow, Vegetative  
Buffers (Field 4)



Fall-Seeded Rye  
Cover, Spring  
Manure/Chisel Plow  
(Field 2)

Fall Manure/  
Spring Chisel Plow  
(Field 3)

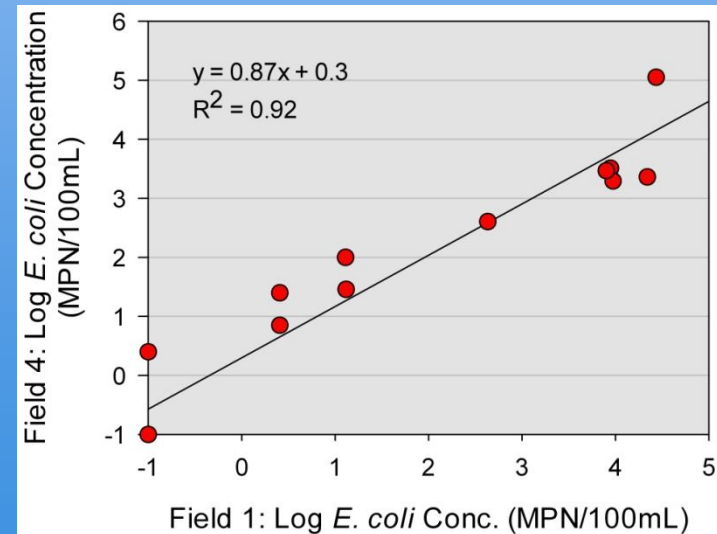
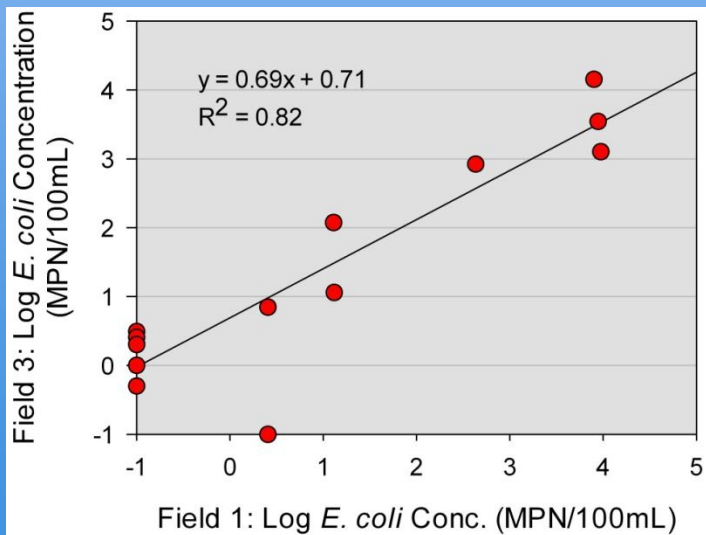
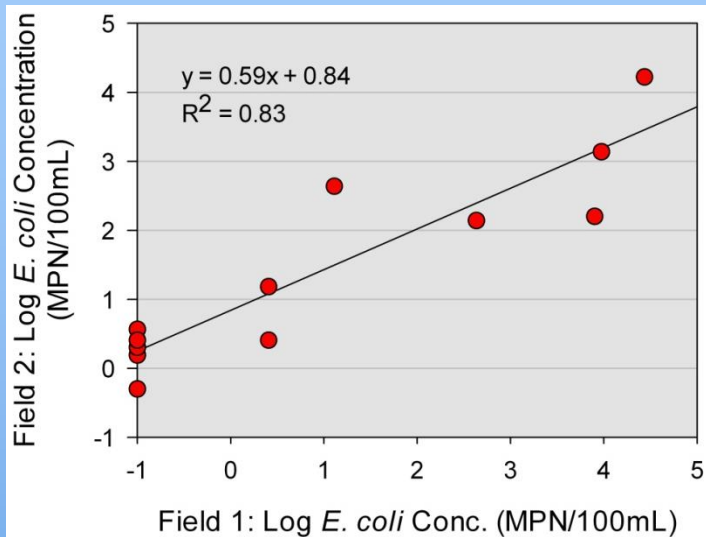




# Calibration Period Regressions

Indicator *E. coli*

April – August, 2008

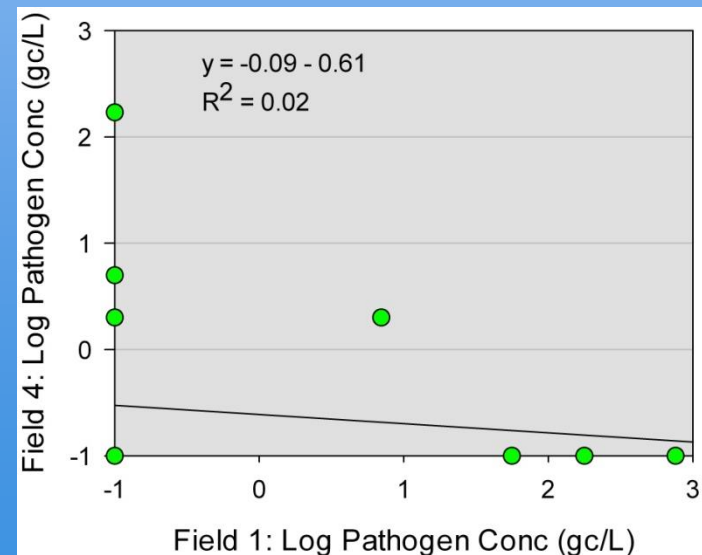
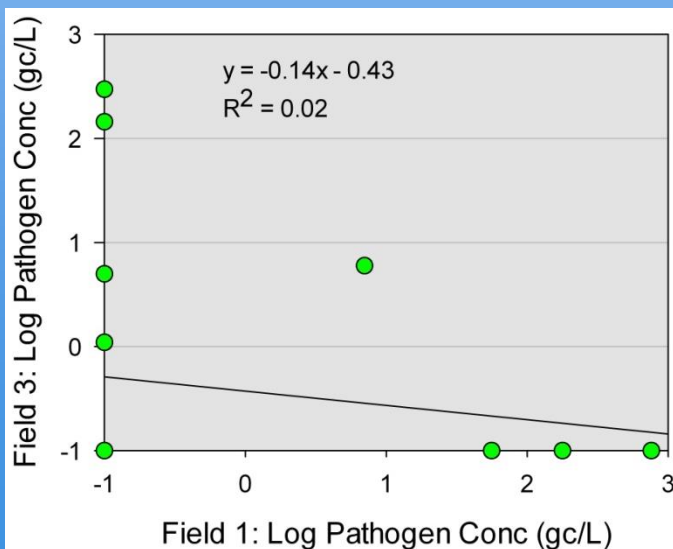
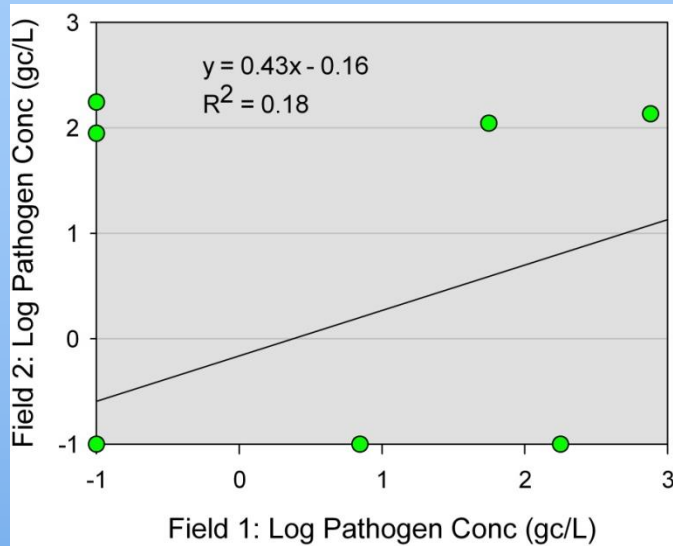


# Calibration Period Regressions

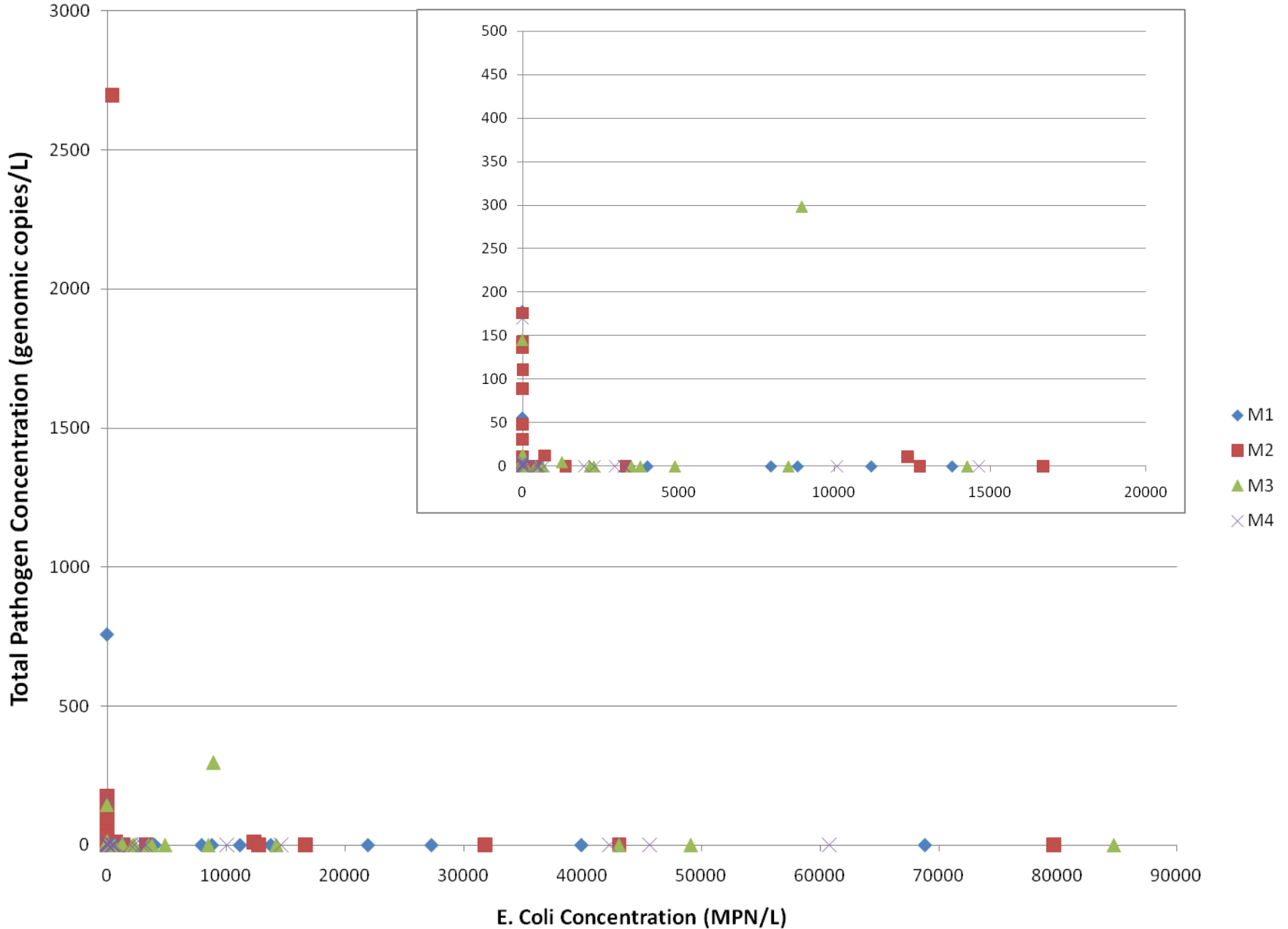
## Total Pathogens

(Sum of genomic copies across taxa)

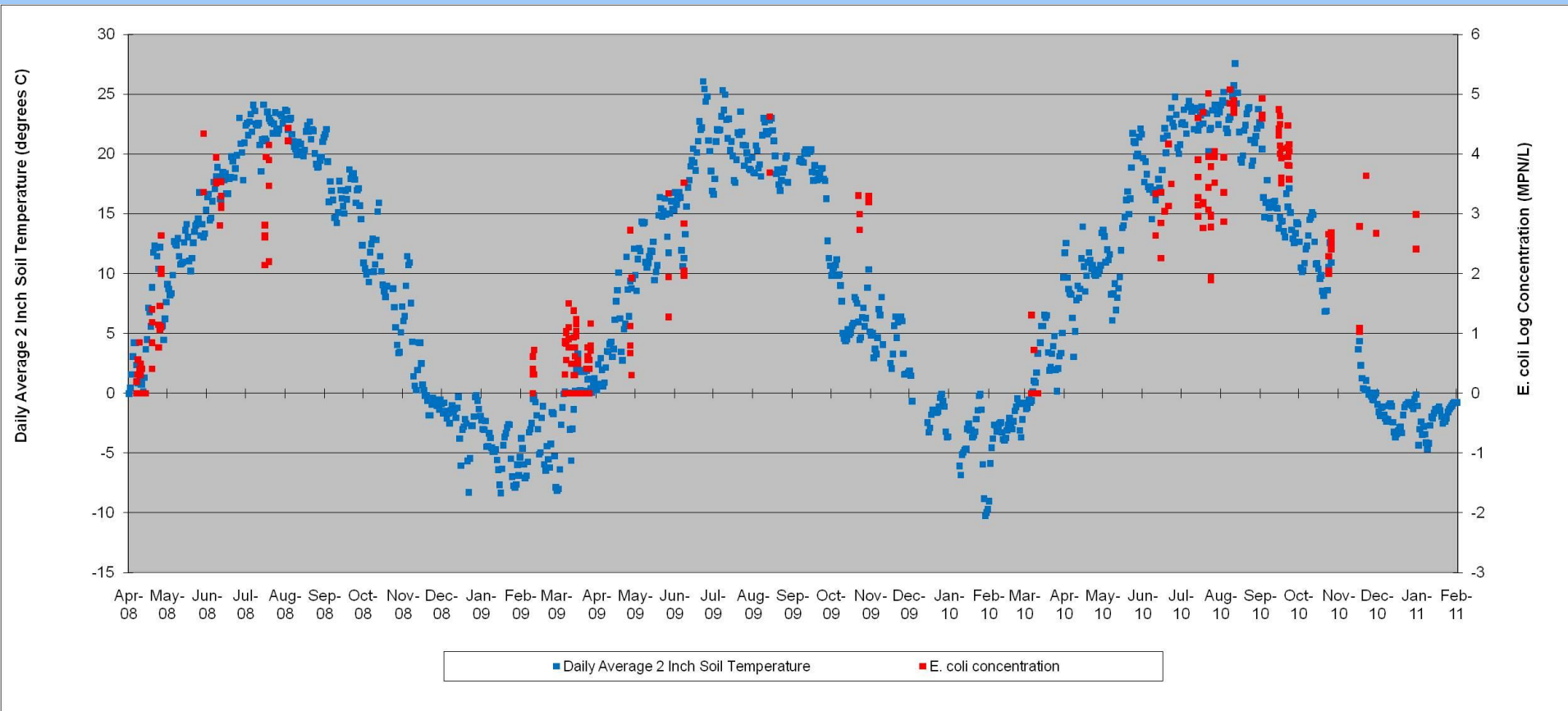
April – August, 2008



## Total Pathogen vs *E. coli* Concentrations, 2008-2010

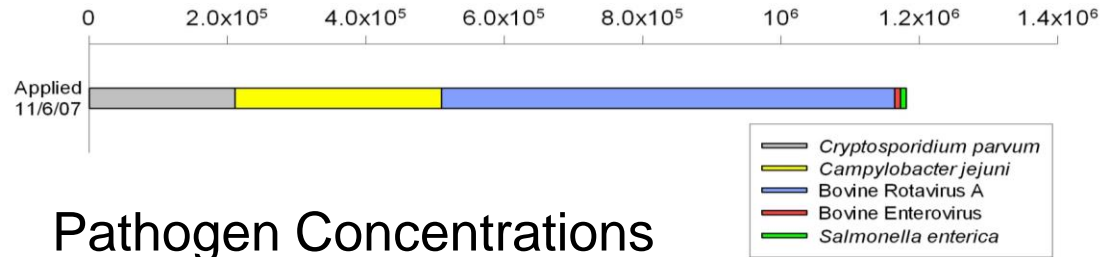


# Daily 2 Inch Soil Temperature vs *E. coli* Log Concentration

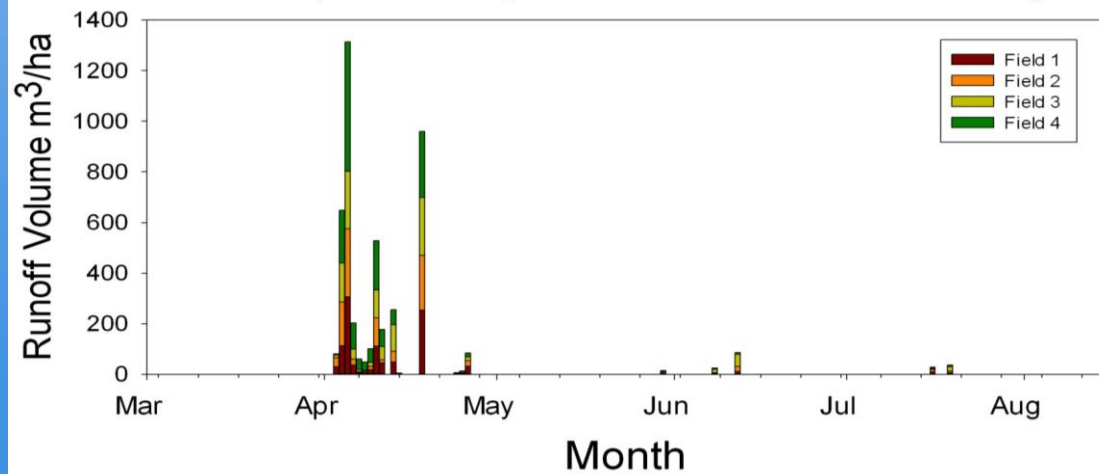
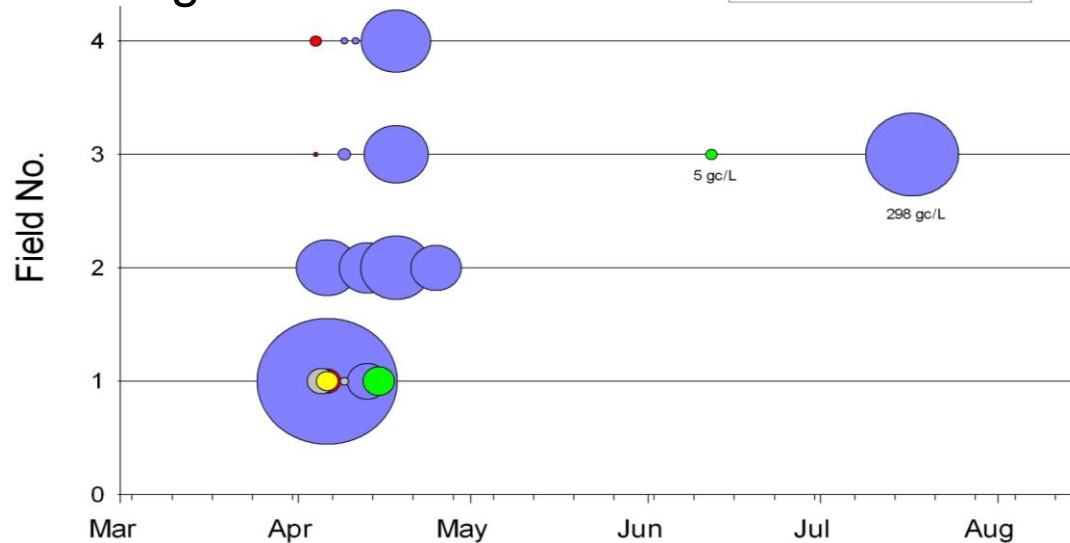


## Year 2008

Manure Pathogen Concentration (genomic copies/L)

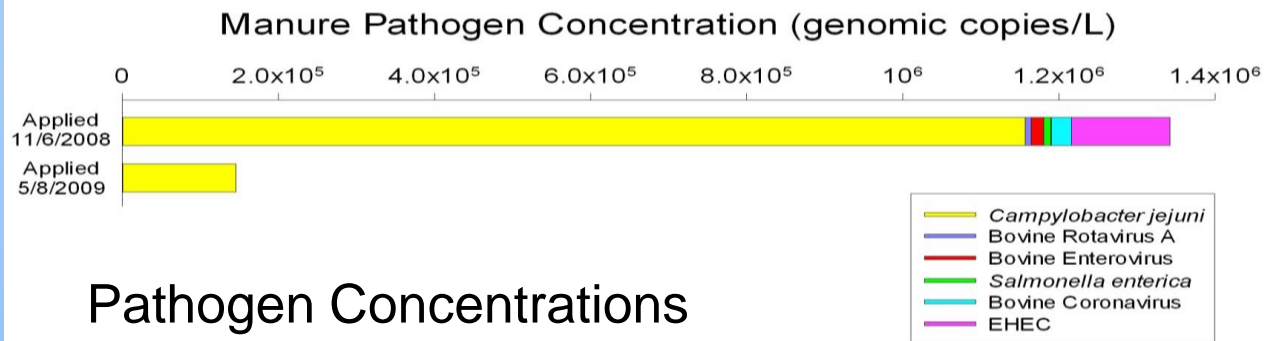


# Pathogen Concentrations

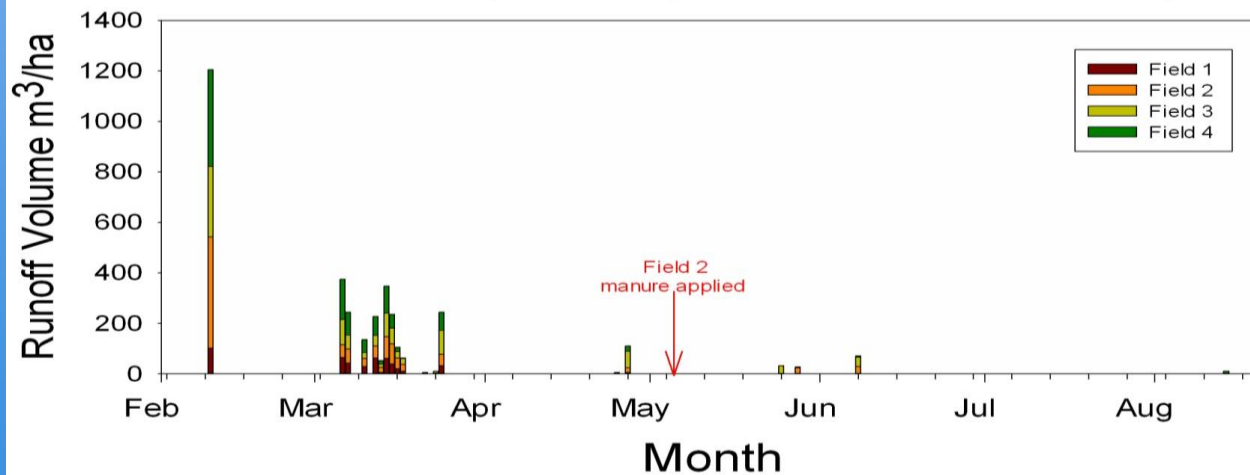
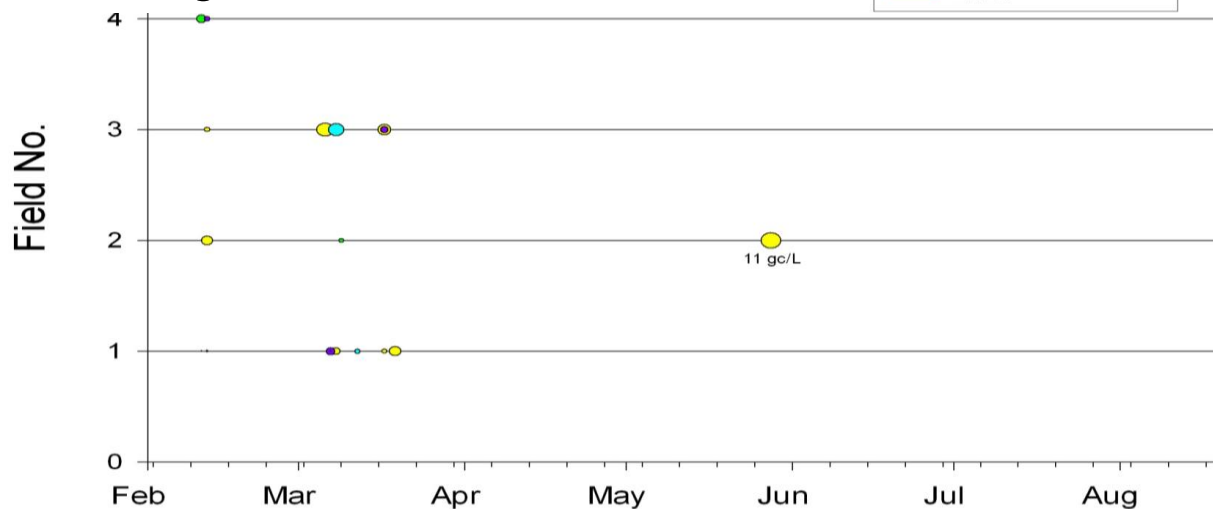




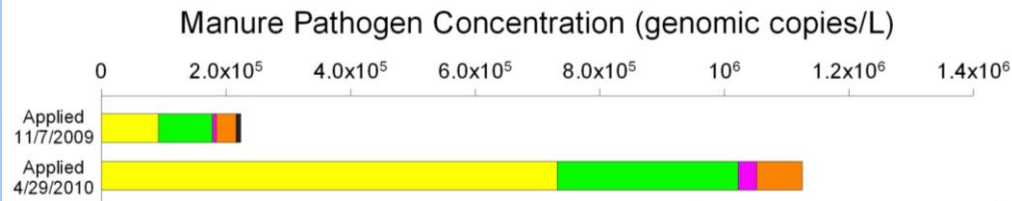
# Year 2009



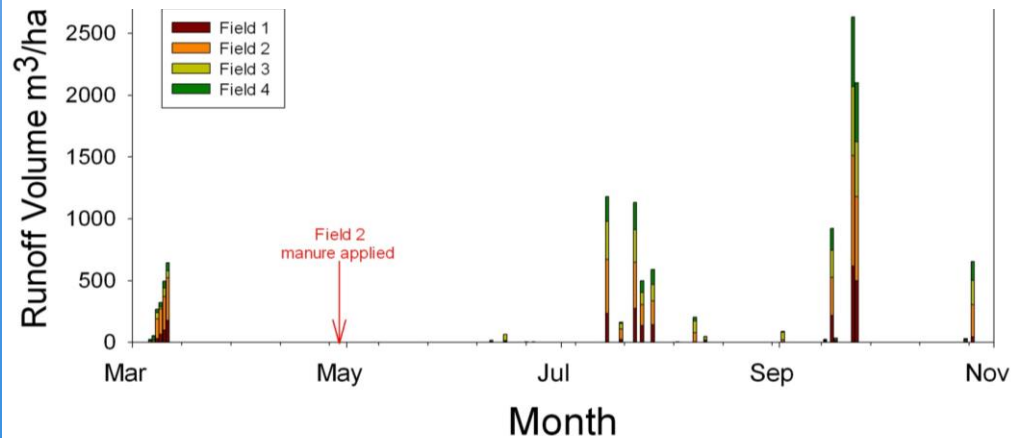
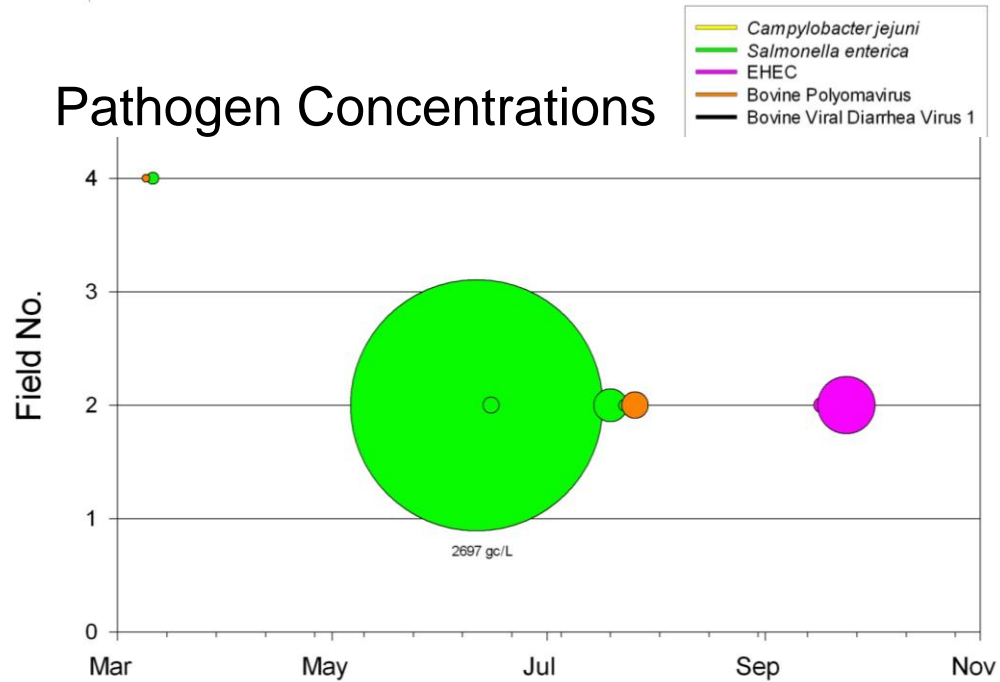
## Pathogen Concentrations



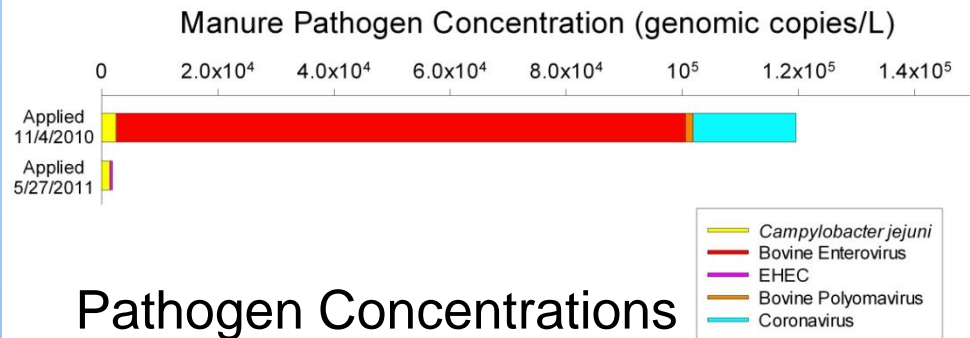
# Year 2010



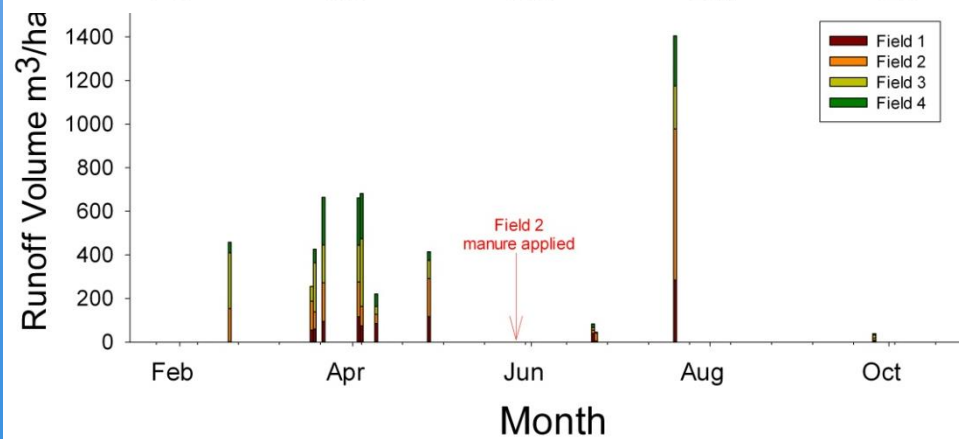
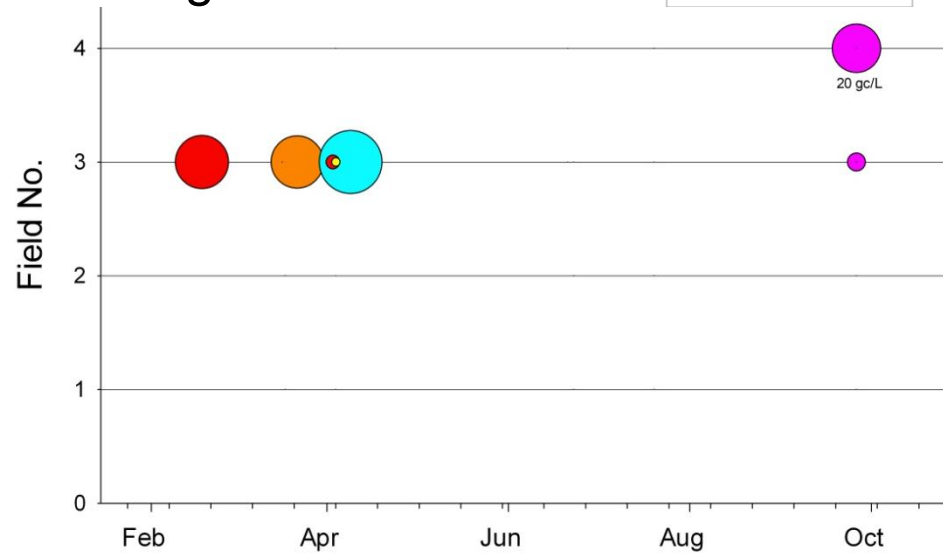
## Pathogen Concentrations



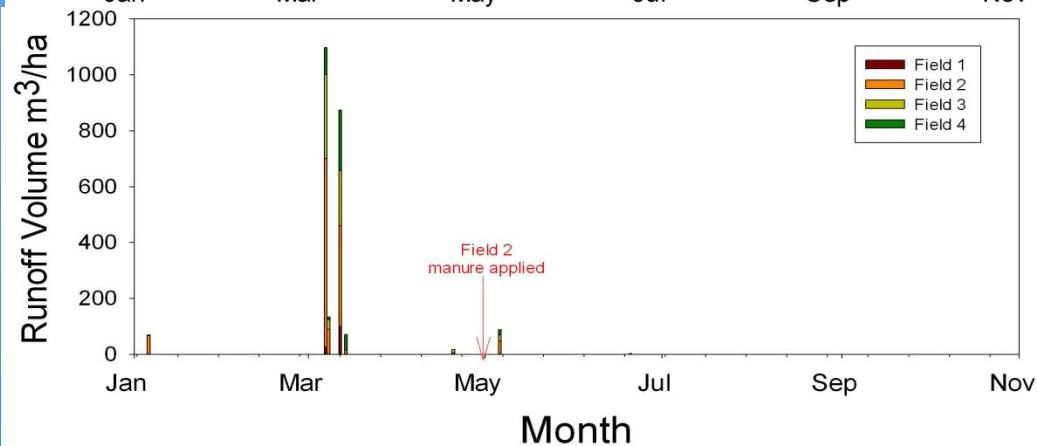
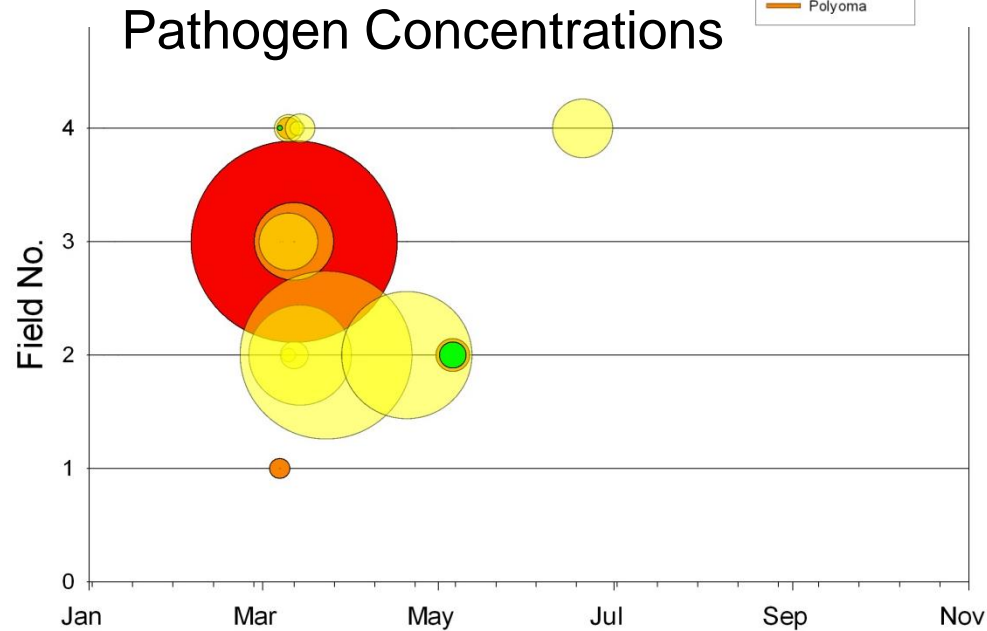
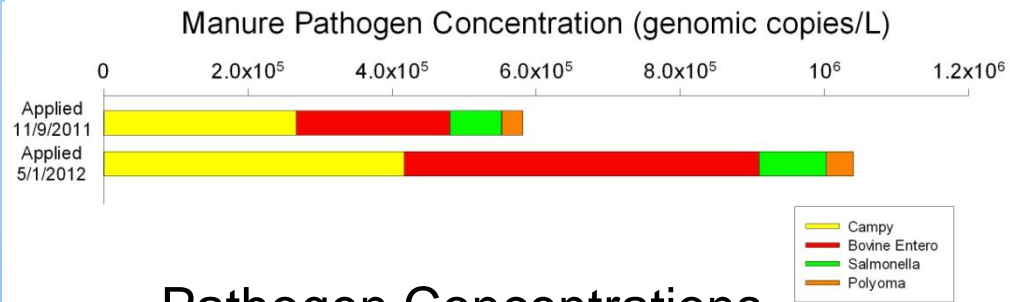
# Year 2011



## Pathogen Concentrations

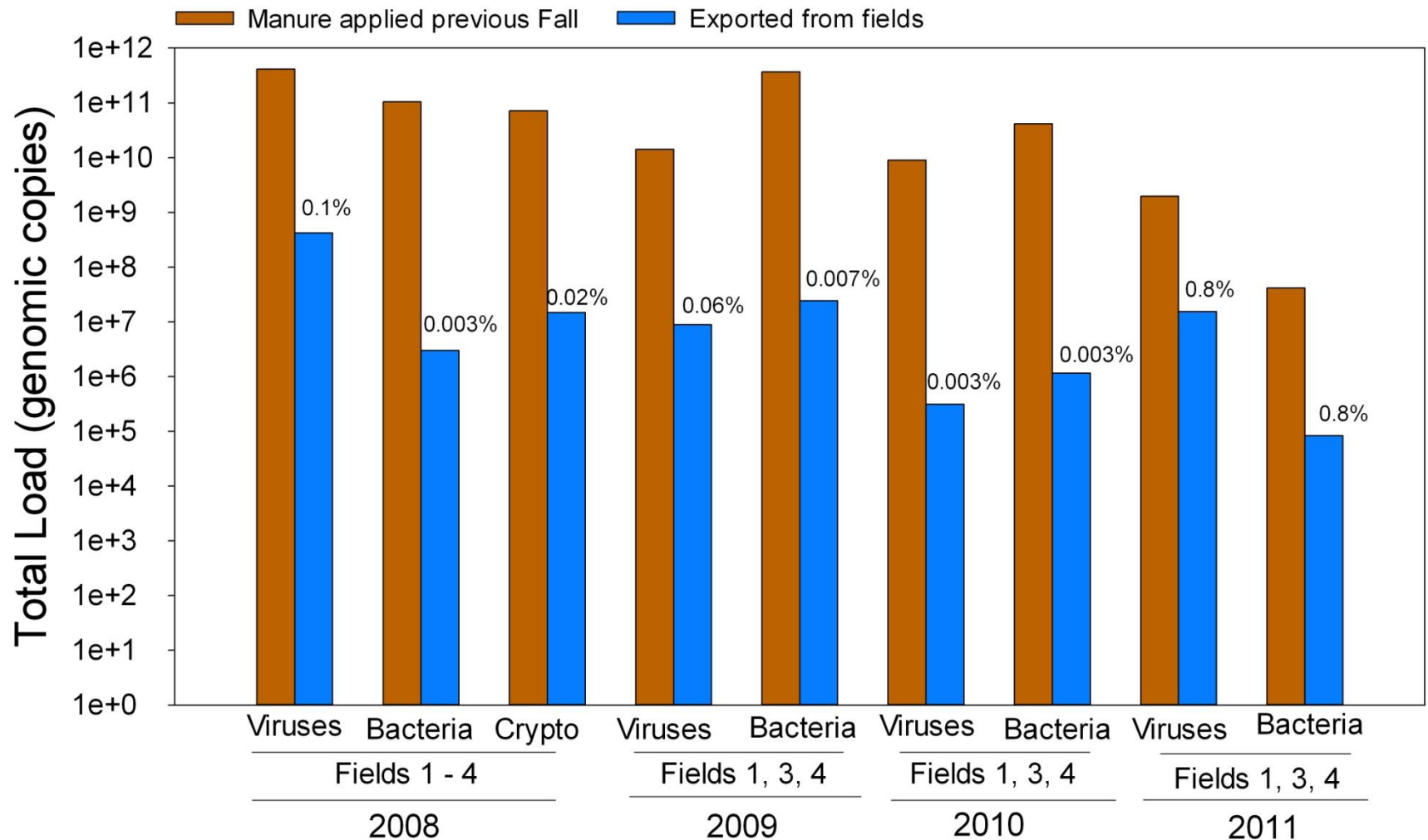


# Year 2012



# Pathogen Cumulative Export from Fall-Applied Manure

Caveat: Export values are not-flow-weighted





# Perennial forage phase established 2012



# Summary

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- Pathogen types and concentrations in field runoff are highly variable.
- Runoff may contain pathogens many months after manure application; e.g. rotavirus applied in Fall 07 ran off in April 08 and EHEC applied in April 2010 ran off 5 months later.
- In four of the five study years, the majority of pathogen runoff occurred in the spring time.
- Exposure risk to pathogen-contaminated runoff is not necessarily shown by measuring indicator *E. coli* because *E. coli* and pathogen quantities in field runoff are not related.
- Estimated from export rates, fall-applied manure resulted in a 3 to 5 log reduction in pathogens in runoff.

# Questions?

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