



Small Scale Solutions for your Farm

Managing Manure Nutrients - East



Do You Have Problems with:

- Rising fertilizer costs
- Low fertility soils
- Poor soil tilth (workability)
- Manure storage and handling on the farm

Manure is rich in nutrients that crops use, just like the nutrients in fertilizers that you buy. Managing nutrients in manure means taking advantage of the nutrients so you buy less fertilizer and improve soil and water quality.



If manure is not being used for crop nutrients, then it is wasted money.

Purposes and Benefits of Managing Manure Nutrients

- Purchase less fertilizer
- Add organic matter to soil
- Improve soil quality
- Improve water quality
- Improve crop production
- Manure contains micronutrients needed by crops that typical fertilizer does not provide
- Manure can reduce soil erosion by improving soil quality
- Turns manure into an asset
- Saves crop input costs to make the farm operation more profitable
- Potential for higher quality crops





What Is Needed to Manage Manure for Nutrient Value?

- Minimum of one soil test for each field
- Analysis of each type of manure and storage facility
- Crop yield goals
- Crop rotation for each field
- Manure spreader calibrated to apply the desire tons/acre.



Spreading manure is like spreading chemical fertilizer. It contains (N) nitrogen, Phosphate (P_2O_5), and (K_2O), just like purchased fertilizer it just looks and smells different.

How to Maintain Your Manure and Nutrient Management Plan

- Soil test each field every 3 to 5 years
- Analyze the manure annually for nutrient content
- Keep records of crop yields and the amount of manure and other nutrients applied
- Evaluate crop and soil response and revise the plan as needed

Associated Costs

- Generally no cost for manure
- Cost to transport and apply the manure—a few dollars more
- Soil tests—\$7 to \$10 per 20 acres
- Manure analysis—\$25 to \$50 per year





General Value of the Manure per Ton

Type of Manure	N Value	P ₂ O ₅ Value	K ₂ O Value	Fertilizer Value
Dairy	\$.60	\$.57	\$1.32	\$2.49
Swine	\$1.35	\$2.37	\$1.35	\$5.07
Poultry	\$6.00	\$13.50	\$8.40	\$27.90
Assumes: N = \$.30/lb; P ₂ O ₅ = \$.30/lb; K ₂ O = \$.21/lb Pack Type Manure (with Straw Bedding)				



Manure application is calibrated by measuring the weight of manure applied over a measured area. In this case a 10ftX10ft. tarp is used to catch manure which is then weighed to determine tons/acre.

General Nutrient Levels in Manure per Ton

Type of Manure	N Lb/Ton	P ₂ O ₅ Lb/Ton	K ₂ O Lb/Ton
Dairy	2	1.9	6.3
Swine	6.4	7.9	6.4
Poultry	20	45	40
Pack Type Manure (with Straw Bedding)			





Case Study

Example Nutrient Application for Field #3 and for Year #1						
Field ID	Acre	Crop	Nutrient Recommendations / Applications			
			Yield	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O
			Goal/Acre	Lb/Acre	Lb/Acre	Lb/Acre
Field 3	9.7	Grass Hay	4 ton/ac	100 (Rec)	60 (Rec)	225 (Rec)
12 Ton Beef Lot Manure Applied Jul - Yr 1				22	56	85
231 lbs/ac 0-0-60 Applied Apr - Yr 1				0	0	139
175 lbs/ac 46-0-0 Applied in April - Yr 1				81	0	0
Total Nutrients Applied - Yr 1				103	56	224
Balance After Rec's - Yr 1				+3	-4	-1

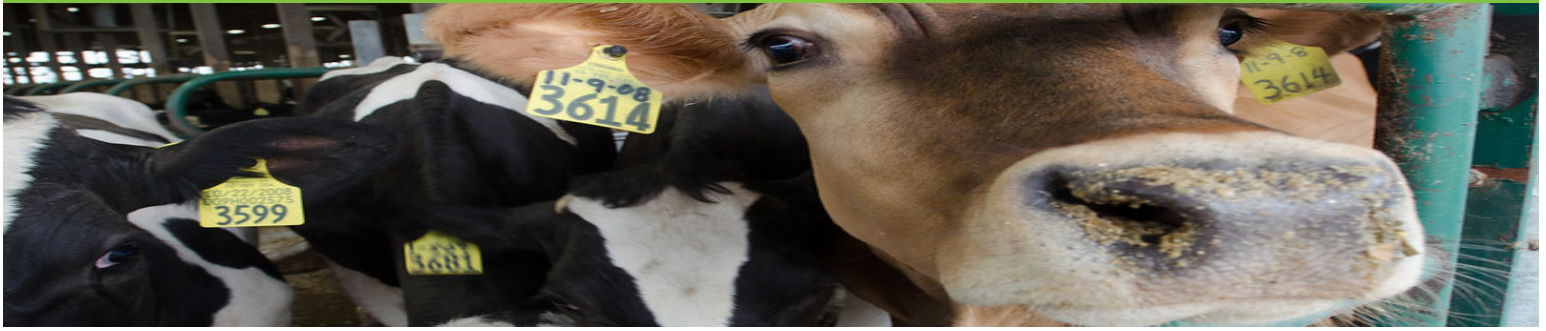
The manure applied:

- About 20% of the needed Nitrogen
- Almost all of the P₂O₅
- About 37% of the K₂O
- The value of the manure in this case was \$41.25 per acre.
- This means the manure can replace about \$400 in fertilizer costs for Field #3.

Crop Yields

Corn Grain	Year 1	Field 1 Crops 9.3	
Oats	2		
Hay	3		
Hay	4		
Oats	Year 1	Field 2 Crops 9.7	
Hay	2		
Hay	3		
Corn Grain	4		
Hay	Year 1	Field 3 Crops 9.7	
Hay	2		
Corn Grain	3		
Oats	4		
Farm HQ's 3.2	Hay	Year 1	Field 4 Crops 7.5
	Corn Grain	2	
	Oats	3	
	Hay	4	





Technical and Financial Help Is Available

Whether you measure your farm in terms of feet or acres, your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can help you develop a Conservation Plan to conserve, maintain, and restore the natural resources on your land and improve the long-term health of your operation.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply contact your local office to set up an appointment. You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.

For More Information

Visit the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) or visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find your local NRCS office. You can also check with your local USDA Service Center, then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.



NRCS conservationist assisting small scale farmer with developing a customized conservation plan.

