

It's the Pits

Fall Manure Pump-out Assessment and a Plan for 2015

As fall pump-out of manure storage facilities approaches there are several management issues that need to be reviewed. Assessing these prior to pump-out is vital for developing an ongoing manure management plan and to pre-determine how your manure storage facility will pump-out for the current year. The key issues to address are microbial activity, salt level and manure liquidity.

Every manure storage facility should have microbial activity that breaks down the manure and locks up the plant nutrients in the microbes. Microbes start the nutrient recycling process by breaking down the manure, and it is these microbes that continue to work with the soil to improve the soil flora for better crop production. If an ammonia or hydrogen sulfide odor is present, those nutrients may have already volatilized into the air. Nutrients not locked in a microbe are more susceptible to volatilization or leach out of the soil after application of the manure. High microbial activity also improves the livestock environment with better air quality and less pathogenic microbes in the manure storage facility.



Salt level in the manure determines how hard the soil has to work to reduce this as high salts are detrimental to crop production. By having the appropriate microbes at high levels, they start to break down the salts prior to crop application. Lower salt levels lets soils utilize the nutrients in the manure much more rapidly and improves crop production and overall soil health.



Plain and simple, liquid manure is by far easier to handle and can be done with less cost. The more liquid the manure is the less agitation is needed for pump-out. Field application is also easier as liquid manure flows through application equipment faster and can be applied more uniformly across the field. Lower gallons per acre are easier to do when the manure is more liquid.

Manure management has to be done the year round to maintain proper conditions in the manure storage facility. Proper manure management leads to enhanced nutrient value for crop production, better environmental conditions for livestock, less corrosion on equipment and buildings and a more environmentally friendly crop nutrient product that is easier to handle. Remember, microbes control the circle of life from building soil biology to producing plants, animals, humans and then return the decomposing organic materials to the base nutrients to be used again from the soil up.

Pump-out Precautions

Unfortunately, a majority of the fatalities (humans or animals) occur when producers are pumping out their pits. Regardless of the timing, everyone involved with the pit must presume that the manure storage area contains hazardous gases. Protective systems must be employed and followed to minimize the risk for those working around the pits.

Because of the proximity of the manure, toxic gases are usually detectable in low levels throughout the year. However, when producers use agitation for pumping, the rapid releasing gas from the manure increases the risk for livestock and humans.





FREE Manure Teleconference Call
 scheduled for August 7, 2014 from 8 to 9 pm CDT on
 Fall Manure Pump-out Assessment
 and a Plan for 2015

For more information, go to profitproag.com.
 Dial the toll free number 1-855-212-0212 just before 8 p.m. (CDT)
 and enter meeting ID, No. 769-100-082# (pound/hashtag key).

2014 ProfitProAG Summer Conference, Albert Lea, MN
 July 24 & 25 (Thurs. & Fri.)
2014 FarmFest, Morton, MN
 August 5 - 7, 2014, Booth #904E

Up Coming Events

NEW PHONE NUMBER

ProfitProAG

FREE TELECONFERENCES

MANURE MGMT (1st Thurs. of each month)
 Control piling/soil solids, odors, flies & foam
 and improve livestock performance

▪ Increase manure value
 ▪ Make bioaugmentation work

AGRONOMIC (3rd Thurs. of each month)
 Improve soil and crop quality and yield profitably

▪ Seasonal topics
 ▪ Expert guests

8:00 p.m. CST or CDT
 1-855-212-0212
 & meeting ID # 769-100-082#

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 A liquid manure bioaugmentation technology

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**Are you worried about losing pit capacity
 in your beef confinement system?**

Manure Master Technology provides enhanced manure
 digestion critical to manure storage related issues and
 problems.

- Significantly reduces surface and bottom solids
- Provides a consistent liquid slurry from first to last load
- Reduces barn odor and odor on land applications
- Reduces flies
- Enhances manure fertilizer value
- Reduces need for mixing at time of drawdown