



Making the Most of Manure – Another Alternative

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Several weeks ago, we addressed the challenges of utilizing manure as a part of our fertility program. More recently, we looked at treatments to manure to more quickly recover nutrient value. Today, we are going to review the challenges and how we might convert manure to a stable, higher value asset (humus) as part of a profitable fertility plan.

Challenges:

1. Variability of nutrient value of manure
2. Variability due to application techniques and rates
3. When does nutrient value become available (N, P, K) and in what amounts?
4. Sheer volume of material/issues of handling
5. Weed seed viability
6. Large amounts of CO₂ produced
7. How much of the microbial life is anaerobic?

So, is there an alternative?

Breaking down the manure (referred to as composting) gives us an opportunity to convert the manure into humus. Using the proper composting techniques, we can achieve 135-150 degree temperatures in a highly aerobic environment, minimize the presence of pathogens, render weed seed inert, and achieve the end result of stable humus.

Humus is highly aerobic, is a rich source of food for microbes, and contains many beneficial microbes, as well as humic and fulvic acids. It creates an environment in

the soil, especially in and around the roots of plants (rhizosphere) where nutrients are immediately plant available (mineralized).

Nutrient exchange between the soil and plant rootlets is enhanced as microbes multiply exponentially and make available exactly what the plant needs, at exactly the right time, in exactly the right amounts.

Soil health is the result of a truly symbiotic relationship between plant roots and microbes.

Manure —> Humus —> Soil Health —> Increased Yields —> Greater Profitability.

Let AgriEnergy assist you with your biology and fertility needs!