

MANURE BASICS

Plymouth County Conservation District

Manure management is one of the most important topics when it comes to raising livestock. Improperly managed manure can cause problems with neighbors, pests and the environment, but properly managed manure can be a valuable asset!

KNOW YOUR POOP

The different species of livestock have different ratios of nutrients- meaning some are more effective for some uses and at different times

Chicken poop is high in nitrogen and is good for home gardens, but should be composted to prevent it from burning plants.

Sheep poop is also high in nitrogen, but composts more quickly because it is pelleted.

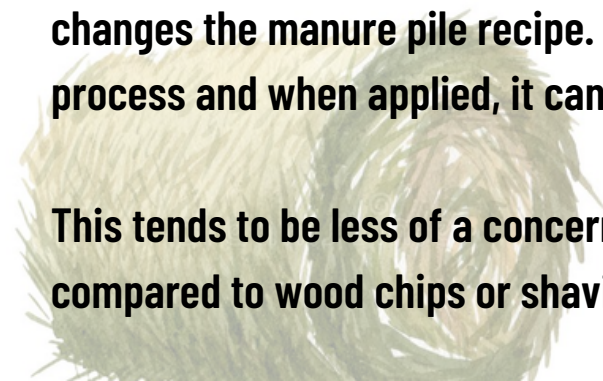
Llama poop has almost no odor and can be placed in a garden without composting.



BETTING ON BEDDING

Most livestock producers incorporate bedding into their manure and that inclusion changes the manure pile recipe. Too much bedding will slow down the decomposition process and when applied, it can sap nitrogen from the soil instead of adding to it.

This tends to be less of a concern with straw, old hay or paper based bedding compared to wood chips or shavings.



WET AND STINKY

There's no debate-poop smells. And that's where a lot of livestock producers start to have problems with neighbors. Bacteria feeds off the manure, and they produce that foul smell. It all apart of the process- but it can be managed.

Introducing oxygen to the pile (composting) changes the chemical reaction occurring and changes it's outputs. Composting manure doesn't smell as much as manure that's been stockpiled.

A pile that's too wet prevents the microbes from doing their job and causes a putrid decaying smell. Keeping the pile covered prevents run off from the pile, keeps it protected from the rain and traps the smell.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

There's plenty more where this came from! Manure management is an art and a science and as a result there are a ton of resources with more information! Check out our website with all sorts of different resources. Or give us an email at [PlymouthCCD.Office@gmail.com!](mailto:PlymouthCCD.Office@gmail.com)

