

Economics

Since manure can be used as a fertilizer, it has considerable economic value.

Example

A sample 50-cow dairy herd with young stock produces roughly 500,000 gallons of manure per year. This can be broken down as follows:

- 7,000 lbs of nitrogen
- 3,500 lbs of phosphate
- 15,000 lbs of potash

If an effective nutrient management plan is initiated, this manure can readily replace \$6000 worth of commercial fertilizer.

Economic Value of Alberta's Livestock Manure (\$ '000's)

Livestock Type	Available N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O
Layers	202.6	601.1	109.7
Broilers	128.5	196.0	59.0
Beef	7850.2	14636.2	12320.8
Dairy	220.9	265.6	305.6
Swine	311.1	668.7	232.1
Horses	605.1	800.5	710.8
Total	9318.4	17168.1	13738

AAFRD, 2000

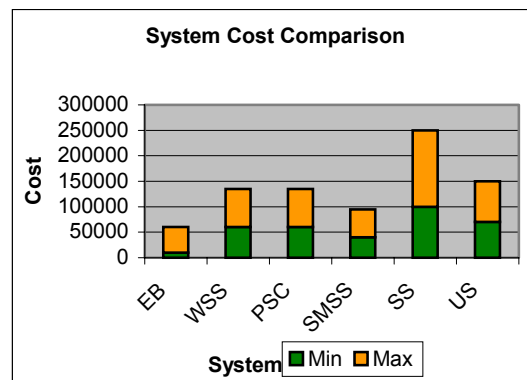
Related Costs

As can be expected, a number of costs are associated with managing manure:

- Machinery costs
- Cost of storage facilities
- Labour
- Hauling and application costs

Custom application of manure is normally more feasible for small quantities. When larger quantities are produced, it becomes economically viable for the producer to own his or her own equipment.

Cost Comparisons MacNeil & Sawyer, 1999



EB - Earth Basin

WSS - Waste Storage Structure Concrete / Below Ground

PSC - Pre-stressed Concrete Above Ground Storage

SMSS - Solid Manure Stacking Slab & Runoff Pond

SS - Slurry Storage / Steel Tank

US - Used Slurry

Based on "An Overview of the Social, Environmental, and Economic Aspects of Manure Management in Alberta's Livestock and Poultry Sectors"

University of Alberta

J. Unterschultz et al, 2000

Contact Wild Rose Agricultural Producers for more info.

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