

# Agri *Resource*

## Manure Analysis

- Agri Analysis, Inc. recommends that manure samples be tested for their nutrient content, not averaged.
- Analyzing a sample of well-mixed manure is essential for good nutrient management.
- The benefits include accurate application, retaining dollar value, controlling pollution and ensuring maximum crop usage.

It is strongly recommended that the nutrient content of manure is determined by laboratory analysis annually or when manure handling changes. The key to an accurate manure analysis is to obtain a representative sample by using proper sampling techniques. A considerable amount of nitrogen is lost if the sample is not taken, handled and preserved properly.

Depending on the solid percentage, manure can be classified into four categories which are solid, semi-solid, slurry and liquid. The sample result is measured in units that reflect the state in which the sample arrived. If it arrived in a solid or semi-solid state, the units are measured in either pounds per ton or parts per million per ton. If the sample is a slurry or liquid, the units reflect pounds or parts per million per 1000 gallon.

A normal basic analysis will determine levels of total nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. For poultry and swine, it is always important to include a test for ammonia nitrogen. Other analysis PACs are available to choose from depending on the application and managerial outlook.

For accurate results, we ask that you use the sample kits provided by our laboratory and never use glass. Fill the sample bottle 2/3 full and close the lid securely. Ship the sample as quickly as possible to ensure its integrity.

**Laboratory reporting time is 2 to 3 days upon receipt of the sample.**

## PHOSPHORUS SOURCE COEFFICIENTS

The Phosphorus Index is a screening tool used by soil conservation field staff and nutrient management planners.

The Phosphorus Source Coefficient (PSC) represents the relative proportion of the total phosphorus applied to the field that is conceivably subject to loss with drainage water.

Frequently, conservation or nutrient management planners do not wish to rely on the average or "book value" for the PSC of a specific nutrient amendment that is to be applied for agricultural use.

In such cases, it is necessary to harvest a representative sample of the manure in question and send it to a laboratory for determining the PSC.