

Slurry Manure on Grass: Making It Work

S. Bittman, C.G. Kowalenko, N. Patni, D.E. Hunt and F. Bounaix
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Pacific Research Centre
Box 1000
Agassiz, BC V0M 1A0
BittmanS@em.agr.ca

Abstract I. Slurry manure nourishes grass like fertilizer! Indeed, with good technique manure can be used to replace fertilizer. The key factors are knowing the nutrient content of the manure and applying the manure uniformly and effectively. Poster 1 explains how to test manure and apply it effectively.

II. Although manure can be used instead of fertilizer, it behaves very differently in the soil. (Sometimes the effects of fertilizer and manure are opposite.) Poster II will describe the positive and negative long-term effects of applying liquid manure, instead of fertilizer, as the principal nutrient source for grassland. Manure increases populations of both microbes and invertebrates in the soil. Manure builds up soil N, C and organic matter. Manure does not reduce soil pH. And manure N is less susceptible to leaching than fertilizer N. But the imbalance between the concentrations of nutrients in manure and concentrations required by crops is the greatest challenge for long-term use of manure.