

Why leachate from a manure pile is bad for water quality:

Fertilizer values per ton of select animal waste

Manure	Nitrogen	Available Phosphorus	Soluble Potash
Dairy Cow	10	4	8
Beef Cow	11	9	10
Horse	12	5	9
Llama	34	14	13
Chicken	28	24	14

Adapted from the MidWest Plan Service (MWPS) bulletin Manure Characteristics, MWPS-18 Section 1.

In addition to soluble nutrients and organic particles, non-composted manure may also contain fly larvae, bacteria and other pathogens.

Develop a manure management strategy that is both good for your animals as well as environment.

For more information on Small Farm BMPs:

www.ConserveCT.org/Eastern

https://nerc.org/documents/manure_management/manure_management_handbook.pdf

This brochure was funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection through the US EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 Non-point Source grant program.



Who We Are

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Inc. (ECCD) is a private, not-for-profit natural resource conservation organization. ECCD offers technical and educational services to the towns of eastern Connecticut. ECCD assists citizens and towns in making sound natural resource decisions, and we promote sustainable use of natural resources. We develop programs that solve natural resource problems and we provide educational opportunities to the public about the interrelationship between human activities and the natural environment.

Where We Are



Contact Us

Norwich: 238 West Town Street
 Norwich, CT 06360
 860-887-4163, ext. 400
 Kate.Johnson.ECCD@comcast.net



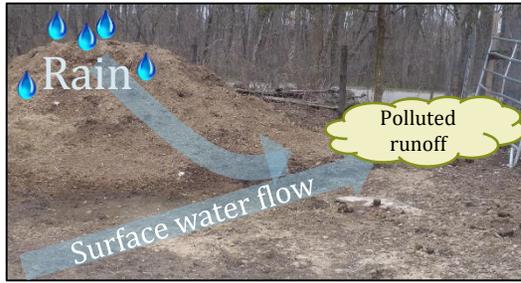
SMALL FARMS MANURE STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Healthier Animals,
Healthier Environment



**EASTERN CONNECTICUT
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
WWW.CONSERVECT.ORG/EASTERN

Keeping Manure Under Cover: A Best Management Practice for Small Farm Owners.



Bad: Uncovered Manure Pile

Uncovered manure piles:

- Act as fly breeding areas
- May contaminate surface and ground water when it rains
 - Soluble nutrients and salts
 - Bacteria and other pathogens
 - Organic particles
- May become too wet or dried out to compost correctly



Good: Cover manure with a tarp

By putting a tarp or compost cover over a manure pile, and locating it away from areas where surface water flows during storm events, you can prevent rain water from filtering through the manure pile and carrying pollutants into local streams and lakes, and keep the pollutants from soaking into the ground and contaminating your well. A cover will also act as a fly barrier.



Better: Manure Composting

This three bay manure composting facility will be covered with a tarp when completed. By building it into a hillside, manure can be added from the high side with a wheel barrow and managed with heavy equipment from the ground level.

Stormwater going through a manure pile will leach out soluble minerals and nutrients and transport them, along with organic particles and pathogens, down slope. Wetlands, streams and lakes are often polluted this way. You wouldn't throw a bag of fertilizer into a lake, but leachate from a manure pile is like the same thing. To help keep our water clean, please cover your manure pile.



Best: Permanent Roof Structure

This manure storage structure has a permanent roof cover and a rear wall of cement blocks. Manure can be transported into the storage area using a wheel barrow. Heavy equipment operators can use the rear wall to help push the manure into the bucket. This option is more expensive, but provides the following benefits:

- Prevents exposure to rainwater
- Sized to store up to a year of manure storage
- Easy access.

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District is available to help guide small farmers with development of best management practices that will protect soil and water. Call us at 860-887-4163 extension 400.