



MANURE MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Why Manage Manure?

Regular collection of manure from stalls and confinement areas is essential to the health of your animals and your land. Good manure management can reduce mud; limit parasite reinfestation and fly breeding grounds; prevent nutrients from contaminating surface and groundwater; and improve aesthetics. Collected manure can be composted and applied to pastures, providing essential nutrients for grass and beneficial organisms that improve the soil.

A 1,000 lb horse will produce 50 pounds of manure a day. That's nine tons per year!

TIPS

Collect Manure

Collect manure from stalls and confinement areas every one to three days. Manure does not need to be collected from pastures. Harrow pastures occasionally to break apart manure piles and distribute the nutrients.

Store Manure

A well-designed storage area can make manure management more efficient and prevent polluted runoff from entering surface or groundwater.

Choose the Right Location

Choose a high, level area of your property that's in close proximity to where the manure is being collected. Make sure the area is easily accessible by tractor year-round and dry enough that it won't turn to mud in the winter. Check code requirements—regulations may require that manure storage areas be placed a certain distance from neighbors as well as wetlands, streams and other water bodies. You can contact the King CD for more information.

Two to Three Bin System

If you plan to compost your manure, a bin system can be extremely useful. Two bins is the recommended minimum, but adding a third bin is ideal. Bins can be made of wood or eco-blocks and placed on a concrete slab or the ground. All bins must be covered with a tarp or roofed year-round.

