Reinforcing Barnyard Manure

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
REINFORCING BARNYARD MANURE
Department of Agronomy

Superphosphate, (20% analysis)

1. Scattered in the gutters it prevents the loss of nitrogen and reduces fermentation and odors.

Suggested amount: About one pound on stable walks and gutters daily for each cow or steer; or spread one pound daily on the dropping board for each 100 hens; or 50 to 100 lbs. per load of manure.

2. Manures are usually low in phosphate. The use of 50 lbs. of 20% superphosphate per ton will bring the composition of average barnyard manure up to about 10 lbs. of nitrogen (N), 15 lbs. phosphate (P2O5), and 10 lbs. potash (K2O) per ton, or equal to about 130 lbs of 8-12-8 fertilizer.

3. If manure must be stored, the use of superphosphate is highly recommended as a conserver of nitrogen.

4. Limestone and superphosphate should not be mixed together in a manure pile, but there is no serious disadvantage in applying the phosphate and limestone at the same time to cultivated fields.

5. Manures for pastures and other crops are made effective when reinforced with superphosphate. Likewise, the phosphate is more efficiently used than if applied alone.

Hydrated Lime or Agricultural Lime. (Not ground limestone)

1. Spread in gutters as a sanitary aid it retards decomposition for a few days, but will cause nitrogen loss to the air if the manure is not spread on fields and plowed under immediately.

2. Lime hydrate when moistened will change in a couple of days to carbonate of lime, and as such is not caustic or effective as a disinfecting material.