

FEEDING YOUR FIELDS...

Part 4: THE VALUE

In addition to its affordability, wealth of micronutrients and overall consistency, conditioned manure also offers a great value in nutrients for overall cost.

In an analysis of more than 30 samples taken over a two year period, a ton of conditioned manure contained an average of 33 lbs. of nitrogen (N) and 34 lbs. of phosphorous (P). Looking at current prices of commercial fertilizer, price of N ranges between \$0.42 - \$0.64 per pound, while price of P is between \$0.48 - \$0.59 per pound.

If you apply the recommended rate of 5 tons of conditioned manure per acre, your product cost will be \$50, whereas the same amount of N and P from commercial fertilizer will cost you \$180 (as averaged between five commercial fertilizers

considered). Even if you discount the P component, conditioned manure N is still cheaper than commercial fertilizer (\$50 for conditioned manure versus \$88 for same amount of N in commercial fertilizer).

Conditioned manure's value is such that even with the spreading and hauling charges added to the product cost, your overall total still remains less than the commercial fertilizer product alone. For instance, at 50 miles away, it would cost you \$116 to apply 5 tons per acre, as opposed to \$180 for commercial fertilizer, not including the commercial fertilizer's application.

Conditioned manure's nutrient value for cost makes it a highly competitive option and is an important point to consider when making your fertilizer selections.

Value of Conditioned Manure

(based on the value N & P; other nutrients are considered "free" for this valuation)

Average Fertilizer Prices on: Dec-10

Conditioned manure (tons/acre): 5

<u>Nitrogen Source</u>	<u>\$/ton</u>	<u>\$/lb of N</u>	<u>N (lb)/acre with Manure</u>	<u>\$/acre</u>
Anhydrous Ammonia (82-0-0)	\$688.00	\$0.42	164.8	\$69.11
Urea (46-0-0)	\$510.00	\$0.55	164.8	\$91.33
UAN Liquid (32-0-0)	\$407.00	\$0.64	164.8	\$104.77

Average \$/acre of commercial N in 5 tons of manure **\$88.40**

<u>Phosphorus Source</u>	<u>\$/ton</u>	<u>\$/lb of P2O5</u>	<u>P2O5 (lb)/acre with Manure</u>	<u>\$/acre</u>
Mono-Ammonium Phos. (11-52-0)	\$595.00	\$0.48	170.1	\$82.23
Liquid Ammonium Phos. (10-34-0)	\$488.00	\$0.59	170.1	\$101.09

Average \$/acre of commercial P in 5 tons of manure **\$91.66**

Equivalent value of commercial N and P in 5 tons of manure **\$180.07**

Cost of 5 tons of manure at the feedyard **\$50.00**

Total savings from conditioned manure (\$/acre) **\$130.07**