

Web Based Resources for Small Farms

Mark Rice
North Carolina State University

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



Web Based Resources for Small Farms

The screenshot shows the 'extension' website interface. At the top, it says 'did you know? Cooperative Extension offices are found in almost all of the more than 3,000 counties throughout the nation. Read more.' Below this is a search bar and a navigation menu. The main content area features an article titled 'Manure Management on Small Farms' with a sub-header 'What Does "Small Farm" Mean?'. The article text discusses the challenges of manure management on small farms compared to larger ones, mentioning USDA and EPA definitions. A sidebar on the right contains a 'Find an Extension Office' search box and a 'Track all new content' link.

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



Small farm manure management poses different kinds of challenges than does manure management on larger farms. This section will connect you with some of the best resources about managing manure on small farms.

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



Web Based Resources for Small Farms - One stop shopping

<http://www.extension.org>



Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



What is eXtension?



<http://www.extension.org>

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



eXtension is an Internet-based collaborative environment where Land Grant University content providers exchange objective, research-based knowledge to solve real challenges in real time.



<http://www.extension.org>

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



Nutrient Management-Simplified!

LPES Small Farms Fact Sheets*



- Aimed at those small-scale livestock farmers who raise more than one type of animal and haul manure on a daily or weekly basis
- Manure testing is not necessary and manure spreader calibration is not needed
- Soil testing is suggested

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



Points to Remember

- Get local "book values for monthly manure fertilizer nutrients produced on your farm.
- Test the soil in each field to find the nutrient needs of the crop in that field.
- Apply manure using a months per field rate of application (generally apply based on phosphorus need of crop).
- If need, apply commercial fertilizer to meet crop nutrient needs.

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



Best Management Practices of Manure Application

- Apply manure to fields that have the highest need according to the soil test.
- When spreading manure in the winter, apply it to fields with the most cover (residue or growing crop).
- Avoid spreading manure on steep slopes.
- Spread manure as far as possible from easily affected areas such as wells, springs, streams, lakes, and ponds.
- Spread manure as evenly as possible across the field.

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



Small-Scale Farmers and the Environment: How to be a Good Steward

(Available in both English and Spanish)

LPES Small Farms Fact Sheets*

LPES Small Farms Fact Sheets*

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center

Small-Scale Farmers and the Environment: How to be a Good Steward

Good stewardship is important for everyone, including small-scale farmers. Using best management practices (BMPs) can protect the environment. BMPs can also improve the health and well being of your animals and possibly increase your profits.

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center

Things to consider when evaluating your farm

- Animal type, size and number
- Distance to water
- Soil type
- Weather
- Distance to neighbors

Keeping too many animals on too few acres causes most of the water quality damage on small farms!

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center

Manure on Your Farm: Asset or Liability?



This fact sheet compares the value of different types of manure as sources of nutrients and organic matter. It describes how to make manure on your farm an asset rather than a liability.

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



Points to Remember

- Manure contains nutrients and organic matter that benefit plants and enrich the soil.
- The amount of nutrients in manure depends on the type of manure and how it is handled.
- Applying too much manure can harm plants and the environment.
- Fresh manure may contain pathogens. Use well-aged or thoroughly composted manure on high-risk crops and greens.
- Sell or give away manure that you cannot use.

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center



Web Based Resources for Small Farms - One stop shopping

<http://www.extension.org>

Questions ???

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center


