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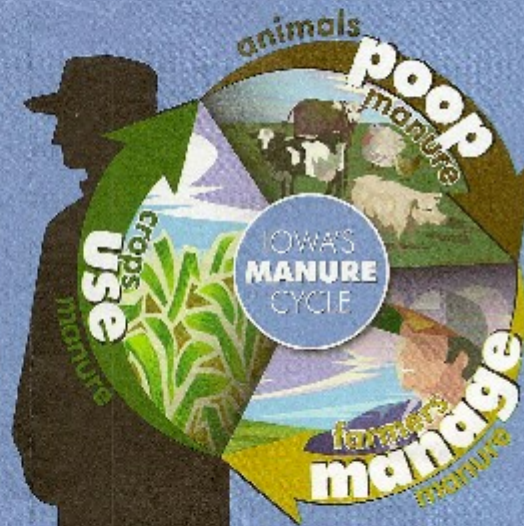
POOP | CYCLE | INVESTIGATION

Get the scoop on
Iowa livestock poop!

supported by:

**The Iowa Manure Cycle
is dropped on you by:**

- Agribusiness Association of Iowa
- Iowa Beef Industry Council
- Iowa Corn Growers Association
and the Iowa Corn Promotion Board
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Iowa Egg Council
- Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
- Iowa Manure Management Action Group
- Iowa Pork Producers and the Pork Checkoff
- Iowa Sheep Industry Association
- Iowa Soybean Association
Paid for in part by soybean checkoff dollars
- Iowa Turkey Federation
- Midwest Dairy Association – Iowa Dairy Farmers



It begins on the farm.

How does manure benefit you?

Crops that are fertilized with manure are turned into many products that we use in our everyday lives.

Iowa crops are made into **FEED** for our livestock, and **FOOD** for our pets and for us. These foods include milk, meat, eggs, cereals, sweeteners and vegetable oils. Corn and soybeans are used to make ethanol and biodiesel to help **FUEL** our vehicles.

Iowa farmers export more than \$4 billion worth of agricultural products annually, ranking second behind California in agricultural exports.



What is manure?

Livestock manure, like all poop, comes from what animals eat. This digested and undigested feed is called manure. Manure is a natural product that contains many valuable nutrients. Farmers use these nutrients to fertilize their crops.



Did you know that turkeys and chickens, as well as other birds, don't pee? They excrete wastes in the form of a white paste. This material is the undigested food and nutrients of the intestines.

Why do farmers manage manure?

Farmers manage manure to get the most benefit from the manure. Farmers follow special rules and regulations for manure handling. They take soil samples so they know how much manure to put on their fields to make their crops grow. Farmers take manure samples so they know the nutrient content of the manure. Farmers also keep track of how much manure they apply and where. Iowa farmers take classes to learn how to safely apply and store livestock manure.

Their farms, manure storage structures and land application practices are inspected to make sure everything is done correctly.



Why is manure used to feed our crops?

In Iowa, we grow corn, soybeans, oats, alfalfa and a few other crops. Manure also is sold as a natural garden fertilizer. Manure contains all the nutrients crops need to grow. All crops, including vegetables, remove nutrients from the soil in order to grow. Nutrients have to be added back to the soil for plants to grow.

By using manure from Iowa livestock as fertilizer, farmers reduce the cost to grow food.

