

Construction of Compost Facilities to Improve Manure Management

Without proper management of horse manure, excess nutrients such as nitrogen can leach into the ground water or be washed into surface waters. Jaime Cohen, an IFAS extension agent in Marion County consulted on the construction and management of impermeable compost bins that more carefully manage manure on six horse farms.

These six farms represent around 1700 acres and may stable as many as 315 horses. A 1,000-pound horse can produce in the range of 8.5 tons of manure per year which could easily contain 0.6% nitrogen. The total nitrogen produced on these six farms per year would exceed 16 tons. The development of proper manure management facilities helps insure that ground and surface water resources are protected.