



Title: Manure Nutrient Management for Amish Farms

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Organization: Ohio State University Extension

State: OH **Region:** Great Lakes

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Theme: Animal Waste Management

Situation: There are over 170,000 Amish people in more than 250 settlements in 33 states. Many Amish families operate small farms of 60 to 100 acres, 12 to 20 milk cows, several horses and other livestock. Amish farmers need information and education to prevent water quality problems. However, much of the currently available extension type information is not directly applicable to the small farms.

Objectives: This presentation describes one phase of a larger project. In this phase, the objective is to produce written educational materials, appropriate to small Amish farms, and to use these materials with several small groups of Amish farmers.

Methods: Randall James, Ph.D. and Les Ober, both at Ohio State University Extension, produced 6 educational handouts showing whole farm nutrient management examples for Amish farms. These handouts were used in a series of meetings in which host Amish farmers invited neighboring farmers to attend an educational meeting in their home.

Partnerships: The Amish strive to be separate from the larger world as much as possible. Therefore, our only direct partnership was with Amish farmers.

Research: Current whole farm nutrient management information, typically designed for single species operations, was adapted for use on small highly diversified Amish farms.

Resources: Faculty and staff time that not supported by this project grant was utilized in producing materials, and teaching group educational meetings.

Results: Outputs include a series of 6 educational handouts and 6 educational meetings for Amish farmers. Outcomes include participation of 4 to 10 Amish farmers at each meeting. In formal follow-up interviews showing practice adoption and request for copies of produced handouts by extension professionals in other states.



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