Treating On-farm Manure

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ding or an amendment to wetter manure, a biologically decomposed product can be produced. An excellent way to treat dryer manure. Odor reduction is an important advantage of well managed composting. Equipment for solids handling is available on most farms. Material may be marketed.

Anaerobic Digestion takes manure and digests it completely producing an odorless effluent that has reduced solids content while retaining the nutrients. Methane gas is recovered that can be used for energy. Demand for the anaerobically digested solids is greater than raw solids.

Lagoon Treatment of manure from the farms consists of diluting the manure, removing solids then treatment in a facultative lagoon to be recycled as flush water to dilute more manure. Liquids and solids are periodically removed from the system. Odors are reduced and solids are separated. Works well with a flush system to remove manure from barns. Solids may be marketed. Liquids can be easily irrigated. Management is relatively easy.

Other potential treatment methods are biodrying, high solids anaerobic digestion, sequencing batch reactors, and total resource recovery. For more information see "Manure Treatment and Handling Options" by Peter Wright in Proceedings from "Managing Nutrients and Pathogens from Animal Agriculture" Camp Hill PA March 28-30, 2000 Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service. NRAES-130 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853-5701.

