

How to Use Maryland's Manure Matching Service

Registration forms are available by calling toll free, 1-877-7MANURE or visiting MDA's web site at www.mda.state.md.us. On the top menu bar click on Conservation, then go to Financial Assistance and highlight the Manure Matching and Transport Service. Registration forms are also available at soil conservation districts and Maryland Cooperative Extension offices. Participants should indicate whether they want to provide or receive the manure.

Additional Assistance

Maryland's Manure Transport Program provides cost-share assistance of up to \$20 per ton to help farmers cover the cost of transporting manure. Receiving or sending farms are eligible. For more information on this program, please contact MDA.

Soil Conservation Districts

Allegany	(301) 777-1747, ext. 4
Anne Arundel	(410) 222-7822
Baltimore County	(410) 666-1188, ext. 3
Calvert	(410) 535-1521, ext. 3
Caroline	(410) 479-1202, ext. 3
Carroll	(410) 848-8200, ext. 3
Catoctin	(301) 695-2803, ext. 3
Cecil	(410) 398-4411, ext. 3
Charles	(301) 934-9588, ext. 3
Dorchester	(410) 228-5640, ext. 3
Frederick	(301) 695-2803, ext. 3
Garrett	(301) 334-6951
Harford	(410) 838-6181, ext. 3
Howard	(410) 489-7987
Kent	(410) 778-5150, ext. 3
Montgomery	(301) 590-2855
Prince George's	(301) 574-5162, ext. 3
Queen Anne's	(410) 758-3136, ext. 3
St. Mary's	(301) 475-8402, ext. 3
Somerset	(410) 651-1575, ext. 3
Talbot	(410) 822-1577, ext. 3
Washington	(301) 797-6821, ext. 3
Wicomico	(410) 546-4777, ext. 3
Worcester	(410) 632-5439, ext. 3

Financial assistance provided by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



**Maryland Department of Agriculture
Manure Transport Program**
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-5863/Toll Free 1-877-7MANURE
www.mda.state.md.us

Martin O'Malley, *Governor*
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*
Roger L. Richardson, *Secretary of Agriculture*
Earl F. Hance, *Deputy Secretary*



MDA 15.08.07 Recycled Paper



Maryland
Department of Agriculture
Office of Resource Conservation

Maryland's Manure Matching Service

*PROVIDING A
MARKETPLACE FOR
MANURE SUPPLIERS
AND USERS*



Maryland's Manure Matching Service links farmers who have excess animal manure with nearby farmers or alternative use projects that can use the waste as a nutrient source. The goal of the service is to reduce the potential impact from animal waste runoff to Maryland's streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay by establishing a marketplace where farmers can sell their excess manure to buyers who need the valuable nutrients it contains for crop production or alternative use business ventures. The service is free and available to both sending and receiving operations.

Authorized by the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998, Maryland's Manure Matching Service is also designed to foster new markets for manure suppliers by encouraging the development of alternative animal waste management technologies such as waste-to-energy, fertilizer manufacturing and composting.

How the Service Works

Maryland's Manure Matching Service is available to all types of animal operations with excess manure, including poultry, dairy, beef, hog and horse operations. Operations can register information with the service about the type of manure available, nutrient value, condition and price. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) then provides this information to potential recipients based on their location, nutrient and timing needs. This helps ensure a match that meets the needs of both the sending and receiving farms.

The Value of Manure

Manure is widely recognized as a valuable nutrient resource and soil amendment. While MDA sets no specific dollar value on manure, it encourages farmers to look at its economic benefits. Manure has numerous agronomic values, as well. These include the ability to improve soil tilth and retain moisture, while providing valuable micro nutrients to crops.

A nutrient management plan will help determine the amount of manure that can benefit a receiving farm's crop management system. Changes in management techniques will also be spelled out in this plan. A manure analysis should be performed to determine the nutrient content of the manure and help participants negotiate a fair price.



Receiving farms also need the results of a manure nutrient analysis to determine the amount of manure they can utilize. Other factors for both parties to consider in establishing a price include loading, transportation and spreading costs.

Alternative Uses for Manure

In addition to land application, farmers may use Maryland's Manure Matching Service to link up with individuals or companies pursuing alternative uses for manure. These may include alternative use business ventures involving fertilizer manufacturing, composting, energy production or other projects currently under development. Entrepreneurs developing alternative uses for manure may also use the service to locate manure producers.

