

Manure processing

Demeter-farm Marchstein in Schelten, Bernese Jura, Switzerland
„The treated manure is of excellent quality“



Farm Marchstein, Schelten

Operation

1 Manure Pit

Capacity: 67 m³

Depth: 2.8 m

with 1 OLOID Type 400

Period

Since 2001

Success

**Organic high quality,
well rotted,
well mixed manure**

Odour prevention

Description Hof Marchstein

The Demeter farm is located in a valley below the Scheltenpass in the Bernese municipality Schelten between the cantons of Jura and Solothurn.

It is a family business with 12.5 ha of agricultural land, with about 5 cows, 2 cattle, calves, 10 goats and some ponies. The young animals suckle from the mothers, sometimes some cows and goats are milked.

In 2001, a manure composting area of 6 x 30 m and a subsequent almost square manure pit with a depth of 2.8 m and a capacity of 67 m³ were built from concrete.

The liquid manure consists of the seepage of the manure compost, which is stored on a slightly sloping concrete surface on half of the compost place, mixed with rainwater that flows directly into the manure pit. The liquid manure is therefore quite fluid with a very low solid content.

Manure and manure compost are treated 2 - 3 times a year with biodynamic compost preparations. The liquid manure is stored on average 3 - 4 months (in the summer) and 4 - 5 months (in the winter) in the manure pit and distributed every 4 - 5 months predominantly on the meadows.

OLOID use

Treatment of manure with 1 OLOID Type 400 on floats in a with a tinplate covered manure pit, where under the cover is an approximately 40 cm wide air gap: The aim is a good mixing and rotting of the manure and the prevention of odour and decomposition with for plants and animals often poisonous products. The OLOID is positioned in a corner diagonally to the centre and immersed such that it simultaneously aerates and circulates the manure. It runs sporadically every 2 - 4 weeks either for one week daily for 1 - 2 hours or once for 12 - 16 hours, whereat it is difficult to assess which is the better course of action.



Success

The treated manure is of excellent quality: Well mixed, well rotted, organically high quality and therefore ideal for a healthy, fertile soil and a balanced biological circulation. Even if rotted compost is emptied directly into the manure pit from time to time, sufficient mixing can be observed with a longer circulation time.

Comparisons with the time before OLOID use are not possible, as previously there was no manure. Fertilization was done exclusively by direct discharge of the manure compost, whose rotting process previously took place in heaps at various locations. This was not better or worse, but required more work.