

Manure Trials

PFI farmers have always been interested in the most efficient and profitable ways to use resources like livestock manure. This year's field trials with manure looked at economics placement, comparisons with other fertilizers, and manure's effect on soybeans. ([Table 1](#) & [Table 2](#))

Vic and Cindy Madsen, Audubon, applied 3,300 gallons of liquid hog manure to soybeans at planting time ([Table 2](#)). There was no significant yield response in 1992, even though the field has tested low in potassium.

Vic Madsen and Sara Havig and a pile of opportunity



Dick and Mary Jane Svoboda, Aurora,

sidedressed 2,500 gallons of hog manure on corn. There was not a significant yield difference. In some years manure has significantly raised yields in the Svobodas' trials, and leaf tests showed an effect to potassium, which can be low on the farm. This year, the tally shows a \$12.59 loss for the manure treatment, but that does not include \$14-worth of P and K fertilizer benefit to the manure.

Tom and Irene Frantzen, Alta Vista, compared: 1) manure preplant-broadcast; 2) manure at planting; and 3) no manure, in a three-treatment trial ([Table 3](#)). The two manure treatments yielded better than the no-manure treatment, but there was no difference between broadcast and planting. The late spring (pre-sidedress) soil nitrate test showed there was no shortage of nitrogen for the crop.

Mike and Jamie Reicherts, Alta Vista, compared: 1) manure at planting; 2) starter; and 3) no manure. The starter yielded best, followed by manure, followed by the check treatment. A soil test showed somewhat more crop-available nutrients in the starter, Mike also credits the difference to the manure - the manure was between the rows and relatively unavailable to the young crop.

Ron and Maria Rosmann, Harlan, compared: 1) manure at planting followed by sidedress; 2) sidedress N only; and 3) starter fertilizer followed by sidedress N. Ron carefully adjusted the starter to 28% N so that there would be equal amounts of crop-available nitrogen in all three treatments. The manure treatment yielded significantly better than the sidedress-only treatment. Bringing the starter-plus-sidedress treatment. Ron believes the 17 gallons of 9-18-9 starter fertilizer to the seed, reducing the crop stand in the dry planting conditions of 1992.