THE SCIENCE WORLD
A Monthly e Magazine
ÍSSN: 2583-2212
April, 2022; 2(4), 464-468

Management of livestock waste

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6476054

Introduction

Excreta, bedding matter, rain or water, soil, hair, feathers, or other debris commonly seen in animal waste management activities are all examples of "livestock waste." Animal husbandry experts used to be concerned about how to reduce the impact of the environment on animals. However, there has recently been discussion about cattle and the livestock industry harming the environment. In fact, cattle and climate have mutual positive and negative interactions of varying intensities, just like any other productive activity. Livestock waste production is inextricably linked to the activity of animal rearing. Intensive livestock farming, in which hundreds of thousands of animals are kept in a small space, produces a vast volume of animal waste. There are two forms of livestock waste: liquid waste or slurry, which includes urine, runoff water, rains, and washing water, and solid waste, which includes animal bedding, feces, and feed wastes. In previous decades, animal waste management was not a major issue, but as livestock numbers, herd sizes, and meat production grow, so does waste production. This has brought to light the importance of waste management, particularly in rational and practical methods.

Consequences for the environment and human health

Although animal dung is thought to be harmless, it can be dangerous to the general populace. Gases can pollute the air, harming both humans and the environment. Farm manure emits large amounts of gases such as hydrogen sulphide, methane, ammonia, and nitric oxide. The unauthorized discharge of animal excrement from leaking lagoons can have an impact on the soil and water systems. In tiny concentrations, phosphorus and nitrogen in manure are beneficial to the

soil. However, increasing the volume can result in major ecological issues such as the extinction of fish and the loss of biodiversity in the ecosystems concerned. Animal manure is frequently stored beneath barns in cattle lines, allowing poisonous gases to enter their confinement thereby causing death.

Importance of waste management

In soil with little organic content, livestock dung helps preserve soil fertility. Adding manure to the soil enhances soil structure and nutrient retention capacity. It also improves the physical condition of the soil by boosting its water holding capacity. Animal dung also helps to improve the climate in soils for microflora and fauna. Dung is sometimes employed as a source of energy. Livestock waste can help with resource management, crop and livestock productivity, and post-harvest losses reduction. Bio-energy sources are gaining traction as a viable energy source that can help address issues such as rising energy demand and rising fuel prices by acting as a substitute for pricey fossil fuels. It reduces the number of infectious agents in the animal and human populations. It aids in the control of vectors and fomites along with reduction of pollution in the environment.

System for waste management

Following is a quick rundown of some of the most essential and innovative waste management strategies utilized in livestock production systems:

Composting

Composting is a viable option for dealing with manure. It is one of the most ancient farming techniques. It's a natural way to manage solid waste by converting organic waste into nutrient-rich compost in the soil. Composting can be done in a number of ways, including the Coimbatore, Indore, and Bangalore processes. Compost enhances soil structure, reduces fertilizer requirements, and reduces the risk of soil erosion through adding organic matter. Composting decreases the weight and moisture content of manure whilst still increasing its stability. Compost is easier to work with than manure, and it stores well without odors or fly issues, reducing pollution and nuisance concerns. Leaching and subsequent ammonia losses are less likely with composted manure. When high-carbon manure/bedding combinations are composted, the carbon/nitrogen ratio is reduced to levels suitable for land application. Pathogens will be reduced if the compost pile is kept at the proper temperature. It is the active management of waste and the controlled decomposition of manure by microorganisms. It commences with the collecting of a waste pile.

Compost is made from waste such as animal dung, manure, animal bedding, poultry litter, sawdust, and used straw beddings. A 1.5-meter-deep trench is used to collect waste (3 cubic meters per adult). The carbon-to-nitrogen ratio varies between 25:1 and 30:1. Organisms function by consuming oxygen and converting it to carbon dioxide, water, and heat. The proximity of surface and groundwater is critical for composting sites. The region should not be prone to leaching, which might contaminate groundwater, or where leachate could run off into surface water. Compost is applied to agricultural fields as a fertilizer, added to improve soil structure, substituted for peat in horticulture and used as a microbial additive to increase enzyme activities.

Biogas

Biogas is a clean, environmentally friendly fuel made from the anaerobic decomposition of animal wastes, home and farm wastes, which are plentiful in the villages. Under anaerobic conditions, biogas is the bacterial breakdown of organic waste to gases. It is one of the most effective trash management solutions. Biogas is a combination of gases created by the decomposition of organic matter in anaerobic conditions. The pH, feedstock temperature and carbon-nitrogen ratio are all factors that influence biogas production from cattle manure (20:1-30:1). Animal dung, with a carbon-nitrogen ratio of 25:1, is thought to be perfect for maximal gas generation. When compared to aerobic waste management, one of the key advantages of biogas generation is that it takes less area, create high-quality renewable fuel and is cost-effective. Biogas is an environmentally beneficial method that promotes long-term agricultural sustainability. Biogas is especially well-suited to residential energy demands because it improves soil conditions as well as cleanliness. Animal waste-based biogas digester systems are environmentally friendly since they absorb and utilize methane directly, reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions from animals.

Vermicompost

The earthworm consumes organic waste and excretes "Vermicompost," which is a small pelleted substance. Earthworms have variety of species such as Eisenia foetida (Red earthworms), Eudrilus eugeniae (night crawler), Perionyx excavates, and others. Because of its fast multiplication rate, the red earthworm is selected because it turns organic waste into vermicompost in 45-50 days. The critical plant nutrients present in the organic waste, such as N, P, K, and Ca, are released and transformed into forms that are more soluble and available to the plants during vermicomposting. Plant growth regulators and other physiologically active compounds are found

in vermicompost. Furthermore, the worms themselves are a source of protein for animal feed. Vermicompost has been proven to be a rich source of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium by researchers, however there is a broad array of compositions reported by various workers. Vermicomposting is a new field that has the potential to be very beneficial to farmers and farm businesses. When correctly maintained, vermicompost can play a significant role in many situations.

Lagoons

A lagoon is an underground earthen basin where liquid manure is discharged and digested for a set period of time by bacterial action. The amount of oxygen dissolved in water is determined by the degree of mixing, and so the lagoons are classified as anaerobic, anaerobic, or facultative lagoons. Daily, animal barns are scraped and scrubbed with water under pressure of 75 pounds per square inch and 500 gallons per hour. This water flows into a lagoon, which should retain at least one week's worth of dung at a rate of 20 kg per cow each day. The lagoon is roughly 2 metres deep. The aerobic lagoon is at least 5 feet deep and holds water for 10 to 40 days. The depth of anaerobic lagoons ranges from 6 to 30 feet, with a retention time of 20 to 40 days.

Integrating cattle and fish for profitable manure management

If not managed appropriately, slurry mixed and excrement tainted water from animal farms can be quite dangerous; yet, it also has a lot of promise as a source of nutrients that can be recycled through integrated farming. Several areas have used traditional wastewater recycling practises such as agriculture, horticulture, and aquaculture. Integration of fish with cattle has lately emerged as a viable and long-term option, and is regarded as one of the most effective strategies for organic waste recycling. Cattle dung has recently been a popular source of manure in carp polyculture in India. Integration with algal production is another potential approach for efficiently processing livestock waste through a recycling process while also receiving benefits. Algal biomass may, in some cases, be used as a source of energy. Solid waste contains not just manure and other associated materials, but also animal and bird carcasses. From a socioeconomic standpoint, efficient disposal and use of these solid wastes in livestock farms is critical. The carcasses of dead animals and birds can be composted to produce nutrient-rich compost. Pig corpses can be composted in bins made of treated wood, concrete, or hay bales, all of which are placed on a concrete floor. Similarly, in the livestock farming and management environment, numerous novel

livestock management procedures are emerging that are ultimately targeted in improving farmers's livelihood.

Conclusion

Traditional livestock waste management procedures need and can be appropriately repurposed for human welfare and other reasons in various modern ways to battle growing energy prices, sustainable agriculture, and lessen environmental concerns. The pure biogas can be poured into CNG cylinders and used as a vehicle fuel. Bottled biogas has been discovered to be a viable alternative to crude oil, and so has a promising future. Integrated fish farming in a wallowing pond or waste-fed poultry or duck aquaculture is a very promising venture acting as income generation source for farmer. Vermicomposting is a strong way of recycling organic waste that also has the potential to create jobs, particularly in rural regions. The combined process of composting and vermicomposting, on the other hand, produces a superior substrate in a shorter amount of time. Animal manure is produced in vast quantities in livestock production systems. Manure management as a resource can be advantageous to animal farmers. In soils with low organic content, livestock waste management helps to preserve soil fertility. Efficient livestock waste management improves a developing country's socioeconomic level while also lowering the risk of disease spread through manure.

Cite as

Brij Vanita, Ankaj Thakur, Shakuntala Rahi, & Neha Chauhan. (2022). Management of livestock waste. The Science World a Monthly E Magazine, 2(4), 464–467. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6476054