



UW Cooperative Extension Service Profitable & Sustainable Agricultural Systems Risk Management Agency

A Lasting Legacy: A course for end-of-life planning

By James Sedman and John Hewlett

Bring up the topics of estate planning, succession, business transition, and defining one's legacy and most agricultural producers will begin to squirm.

While these may not be the easiest of issues to tackle, dealing with them is an especially important part of risk management for any producer. Minimizing tax exposure, keeping the business solvent and able to transition to the next generation, and having a plan in place for unexpected events are just a few of the benefits.

A new course available to the public at RightRisk.org is called *A Lasting Legacy*. It was developed by extension educators from the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University and is designed to be a comprehensive tool for producers to define their total legacy for their life and family.

Defining Your Legacy

The main message of the *Lasting Legacy* course is that there is more to estate planning and defin-



ing someone's legacy than simply making decisions about possessions or succession. We tend to think of succession and estate planning in terms of "who gets what." While this is important, sometimes just as important are the aspects about someone's life that may not be material in nature, such as beliefs, history, and wishes for the future.

The course begins with an especially important example of a young producer who died unexpectedly, leaving behind a family. Not only were material concerns not addressed, there was a sense the man left behind a family that did not know enough about him to impart his wishes or beliefs on to his children. *Lasting Legacy* was designed

to inspire thinking by producers on these matters and set them on a course to address these issues before it becomes too late.

The course is designed in two parts to be a comprehensive way for defining a total legacy. This includes outlining beliefs, traditions, business wishes, and a history to be passed on – as well as dealing with property, real estate, and other business transactions.

Part one involves defining and improving family and generational relationships, steps for transferring property, and steps to impart important life lessons and values.

Part two deals with the implementation of wishes to be fulfilled and the processes involved in transferring property such as real estate. The corresponding course workbook, also available online, includes a step-by-step process to define these values and relationships.

Getting Started on A Lasting Legacy

To begin using *A Lasting Legacy*, go to RightRisk.org and select "A

Lasting Legacy" from the products listing. From there, follow the online prompts. The course workbook is available once the course is opened by clicking the Workbook tab on the top-left corner of the screen. There will be a voice prompt and text available as the course begins.

Remember, this course is not meant to be your sole source of estate planning information. It is meant for you to begin considering and outlining important topics so you can follow up with professionals. Additional readings and references are provided in sections V and VI of the workbook.

For more information on this and other risk management topics on the Web, visit the Western Risk Management Library at agecon.uwyo.edu/riskmgt.

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Applying manure to fields can increase soil fertility and lower fertilizer costs

By Dallen Smith

Manure has been used since the beginning of agriculture, which dates back to the time of the pharaohs of ancient Egypt.

Not all manure is the same. There is value in applying manure to crops close to where the manure is produced, since manure is a bulky product when compared to commercial fertilizer. The cost of hauling and applying manure needs to be considered when comparing to other fertilizer.

Correct timing and application of manure is very important so crop needs are met and runoff does not contaminate water supplies.

Manure is feces, urine, other excrement, and bedding produced by livestock that has not been composted. Many times, manure may contain bedding such as straw, hay, wood chips, paper products, or other organic matter. Organic matter with the manure is satisfactory, but it is important to keep plastic twine, plastic bottles, and glass out of manure since these products do not biodegrade. Plastic twine is hard on equipment, livestock, and wildlife and should be kept to a minimum. Plastic bottles blown by wind can be a nuisance to a producer and their neighbor.

Manures from different species of livestock have different amounts of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) or NPK as indicated by the chart below.

It is important to determine what type of crop or the rotation of crops to be grown in a field. Take soil samples and send them to a soil testing laboratory to determine what amounts of NPK and other nutrients are in the soil. Soil samples can be sent to the University of Wyoming, or there are other commercial labs throughout the country. The UW soil laboratory can be reached at (307) 766-2135 or

by e-mail at soiltest@uwyo.edu. The Web site is http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/renewableresources/soil/soil_lab.htm.

Monitoring the amount of salts in the soil is important since plants have different salt tolerances, and applying manure can increase the amount of salt. Watering the seed bed before planting will often leach the salt out, and salt-sensitive plants will grow.

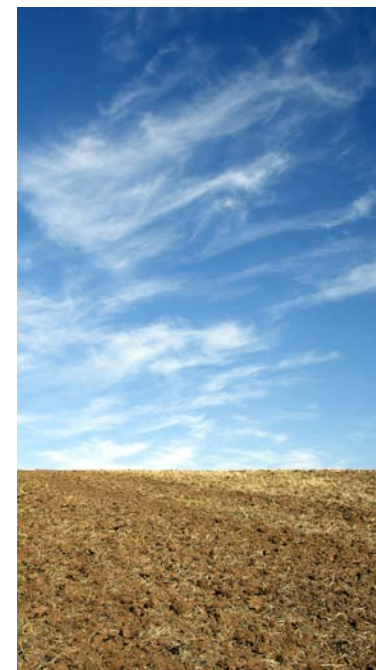
Soil pH is important for growing healthy plants. Once it is determined the amount of NPK needed for the crop that is being grown

minus the amount available in the soil – which is determined by the soil sample results – a grower can determine at what rate manure should be applied.

Crop rotation works well with manure application since it is difficult to apply manure to a corn crop to meet the N needs and since P will start to build up in the soil. Alfalfa uses large amounts of P and needs very little supplemental N. Many producers like to plant small grains a couple years and corn a year and alfalfa for four or five years. Locally, the cost for fertilizer (with an application rate of 200 units of N and 100 units of P per acre, which will satisfy the need of 25 ton-to-the-acre corn silage) quoted by one of our local commercial fertilizer companies in February was \$181.43 per acre.

Manure also adds organic matter to the soils that will often help in production of the crop grown by increasing the water-holding capacity. Manure also adds tilth to soils containing amounts of clay. Tilth is the ease at which the ground is worked and denotes loose soil, which increases water holding capacity and increases microbial activity, which increases plant growth.

There can be drawbacks of using manure in that manure may introduce weed seeds depending



upon the quality and type of feed and bedding the animals use that produce the manure. Composting the manure will kill most weed seed, and the producer will have a more stable product, but some of the N is lost in the composting process. Loss of N is not a concern if the compost is to be applied to alfalfa, which has a low supplemental N requirement.

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Nutrients in Solid Manure

Approximate fertilizer value of manure from a solid handling system.

Species	Bedding or litter	Dry matter %	Ammonium N lb/ton	Total N lb/ton	P ₂ O ₅ lb/ton	K ₂ O lb/ton
Swine	No	18	5	11	8	5
	Yes	18	4	9	7	7
Beef	No	15 ^a	4	11	7	11
	No	52 ^b	7	21	14	23
Dairy	Yes	50	8	21	18	26
	No	18	3	9	3	6
Sheep	Yes	21	4	9	3	6
	No	28	5	18	11	26
Horse	Yes	28	5	14	9	25
	Yes	46	4	14	4	14

^a Open concrete lot

^b Open dirt lot