

## New York On-Farm Research Partnership Join Us!

# Value of Manure Project 2025

### Research questions:

- How much nitrogen can be credited to manure?
- What is the yield impact of fall or spring manure applications in grain and silage corn?
- What is the microbial biomass impact of manure application?

### Background:

Manure has all seventeen essential plant nutrients and can increase yield beyond what can be obtained with fertilizer only. In this project, we evaluate the nitrogen fertilizer replacement value (how much N can we credit to manure?) and yield differences as a result of manure application. This project is funded by the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI) and the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program (NNYADP). We are looking for farmer participants so let us know if you are interested in implementing this trial on your farm. We can test any type of manure you are interested in evaluating (liquid, separated, solids, compost, etc.) and any application method and timing. Interested? Contact Juan Carlos Ramos ([jr2343@cornell.edu](mailto:jr2343@cornell.edu)), On-Farm Research Coordinator for the NMSP.

### Required for participation:

- Corn harvester (chopper or combine) with calibrated yield monitor system.
- Trial plot should get 20-30 lbs N/acre as starter only (no broadcast fertilizer N).
- Field size: length minimum of 1200 feet. Field width minimum of 12 times the harvester width. Trial area should be as homogenous as possible.
- Ideally 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year corn where N fertilizer is expected to be needed for optimal yield but otherwise with optimal fertility (pH, P, K, etc.).
- Sidedress unit that can apply up to 175 lbs N/acre in 35 lbs N increments (0-35-70-105-140-175) per the trial plot plan (below, Figure 2).
- Manure application equipment (surface application, incorporation, or injection) and your preferred manure type (liquid, separated liquids, solids, compost, digestate, etc.).

### Experimental design:

The experimental design has three strips where manure is applied during spring 2025, and three where no manure is applied. Before planting, 3 strips of manure are applied (Figure 1a). Strips should be 2-3 harvester passes width, so that at harvest we have at least one clean yield pass per plot. Each strip will have 6 sub-strips, each of them with a different sidedress N rate

applied when corn is between V4-V6 (Figure 1b). See below aerial image 1b (each sub-strip is 200-300 ft long) and the plot plan with plot numbers (figure 2).

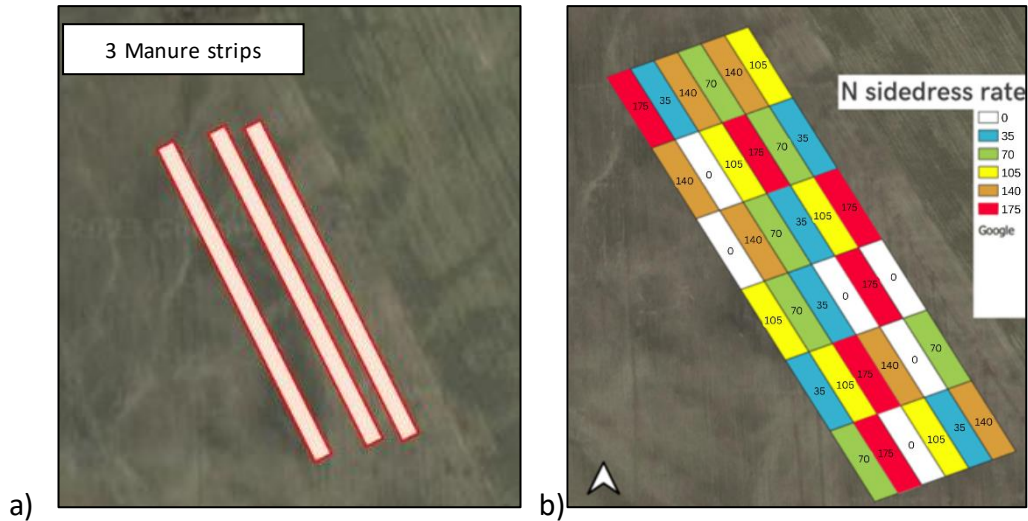


Figure 1. a) Three strips receive manure before planting, leaving space in between for 3 no manure strips. b) Each of the six strips are divided into 6 subplots, each of which receive a different nitrogen sidedress rate at V4-V6.

**What you implement:**

- Three strips of manure applied homogeneously across the strips (applied at fall or spring) and three strips without manure, per the plot plan (Figure 2).
- Flagged corners for each manure strip.
- Sidedress nitrogen per the plot plan (6 N rates per strip, Figure 2), ideally applied between V4-V6. Farm provides the variable rate prescription based on the 6 N rates.
- Yield data collected with a calibrated yield monitor system.
- All necessary inputs for regular crop production (weed control, etc.).

**What you collect:**

- One manure sample per strip taken at application (3 samples total; keep frozen until we pick it up; we can supply sampling cups).
- Yield data with a combine or chopper with calibrated yield monitor system.
- Field history information and crop management info (planting date, starter fertilizer use, manure application rate and method and timing, any field crop passes for weed or pest control, timing of sidedressing, past crop rotations, in addition to the yield data).
- Manure systems information (type of storage, treatment, etc.).

**What the Cornell team and collaborators will do (and share with you):**

- Send the manure to be analyzed for nutrient content.
- Aid with treatment implementation and flagging (and GPS referencing) of strips and sub-strips.
- Collect soil samples for general microbial activity, soil fertility, ISNT-N (0-8 inches) and PSNT (0-12 inches) just before you sidedress the field.

- Collect NDVI imagery from satellite imagery (drone as well most likely).
- Collect CSNT samples and forage quality for corn silage fields for each plot.
- Share final reports with yield data, crop response to manure and fertilizer, all soil, manure, and silage quality information, and final reporting with you.



Figure 2. Value of Manure Plot plan

## Please let us know if you will participate!

Once we have a list of participants, we will start documenting locations and put together the plan for completing the trials with you in 2025.

**Juan Carlos, NY On-Farm Research Coordinator**  
**(531 207 6339; [jr2343@cornell.edu](mailto:jr2343@cornell.edu))**