

The process

1. Collect manure from fresh piles from around 10 percent of the herd/pen you'd like to observe.
2. Run water through the screens with a low pressure nozzle for 10 minutes or so.
3. Pulsate the manure screen inside the bucket to rush water through bottom two sieves.
4. Weigh the contents of each screen after squeezing as much of the water out of the material as possible.
5. Wash and sanitize the equipment.

Manure Screenings...What can we learn?

Why should we do this?

Are the rumens of our cows functioning optimally? One way to listen to what the cows are telling us is by taking a closer look at their manure. A manure screening separates the large, medium, and small particles and shows us how well the diet that we are feeding gets digested in the cow.

How often should we do this?

Basically, manure screenings are a tool to help us to do one of two things: create a baseline because things are currently going well and we'd like to be able to repeat the current situation OR we are troubleshooting and trying to improve. That being said, completing a manure screening 1-4 times per year should give us enough insight if things change dramatically.

What should we see?

The manure screen contains three different sieves. The goal

is to see as much on the bottom sieve as possible.

Top: less than 10%
Middle: Less than 20%
Bottom: Over 50%

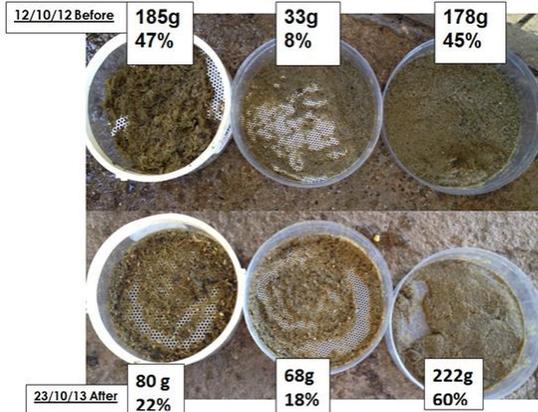
Noticing lots of material in the top sieve? This indicates poorer digestion.

High levels of forage or grain in the top sieve means that large amounts of those feeds passed through the cow. Are there any diet changes we can make to increase digestibility?



Notice:

Manure screenings are quick and easy, but they can give us quite a bit of insight in to what is passing through the cow.



Ag Partners Service

If you are interested in observing the manure of your herd, talk to your nutritionist about bringing out the manure screen. This service is offered, at no cost to producers, and can help us identify possible diet

changes necessary.

Possible follow up steps:

1. Fecal Starch Analysis
2. Corn processing adjustments
3. Diet Shake Out
4. Ration adjustments

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