

Sustainable Recycled Organics Usage



ON-FARM FACTSHEET SERIES

Fact Sheet: A5.1

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LAND APPLICATION – Spreaders

Recycled organics are a major resource in the Condamine river catchment. If recycled organics (particularly manure) are regularly used on property, the purchase of a spreader is an important decision to be considered. This fact sheet reviews some of the spreaders available in Australia along with design features and 2007 prices.

Sizes

Spreaders vary greatly in size, from 1 tonne capacity to over 20 tonnes capacity. The smaller capacity spreaders (1-2 tonnes) are generally designed for three point linkage mounting. They are generally not suitable for spreading large amounts of manure because of the amount of time spent loading and travelling from the spreading area to the stockpile.

Larger capacity spreaders are usually trailing or truck/tractor mounted. Trailing units are probably the best option for the farmer or co-operative farmer group. Trailing units vary in size from less than 5 tonne to over 20 tonne capacity. These can generally be used for spreading other products such as lime and fertilisers, which may offset the cost.

Features

Some features to be considered when purchasing a spreader include:

Adjustable spreading pattern and spreading width (to ensure an even spreading pattern and application rate are achieved)

Horizontally vs vertically mounted beaters – vertically mounted beaters generally spread over a larger area with each pass, throwing manure beyond the width of the spreader. Horizontal beaters usually only spread about the width of the spreader.

Conveyor belt vs moving floor chains – movement of the manure to the back of the spreader can be achieved using a conveyor belt or chain and slats. These can be either hydraulic or PTO driven. Conveyor belts may need to be replaced more often as the belt wears easier than the chains.

Rotation speed – the rotation speed of the beaters will affect the width of spread and application rate.

Spreader Power Requirements – check the power requirements of the spreader in relation to

your tractor or truck. For example a three point linkage spreader may need a tractor with 50-60 horsepower to operate effectively.



Photo 2. Horizontal flat spinners are also effective in spreading over a wide area. Landaco Maxispread. www.landaco.com.au



Photo 3. Nufab three point linkage spreader www.nufab.com.au

Price

The size of a spreader generally determines the price. As a guide, prices for a range of different makes of spreaders available in Australia and are provided to give an indication of the 2007 prices for a range of spreaders (All prices are ex GST).

Three point linkage – 1.7 m³ (est. 1 t manure) capacity – \$13,400

Trailing spreader – 4.1 m³ (est. 2.5 t manure) capacity – \$23-35,500

Trailing spreader – 8-9.5 m³ (4.5-5 t manure) capacity – \$26-60,300

Trailing spreader – 14 m³ and above (est. 7+ t manure) capacity – \$52-89,250

Truck mounted – 8-10 t capacity – \$50-60,000

Price will also depend upon extra options such as inspection ladders, tarpaulin rails, GPS guidance systems, monitors and controllers (that can record and display application rates, spinner RPM etc).



Photo 4. Landaco tractor mounted spreader

Questions to ask before you buy:

- How much manure will I need to spread?
- Over what area do I need to spread?
- How large a spreader do I need?
- Do I need a three point linkage, trailing or tractor/truck mounted model?
- Are there any spreaders available second hand?
- Can I buy a spreader as part of a co-operative of farmers to share cost?
- What spreader features do I need?

The following list of suppliers is provided as a service to farmers, it is not intended to be comprehensive, nor does FSA Consulting endorse or recommend any make or dealer over any other. Omission of any make of spreader or dealer does not imply any opinion on behalf of FSA Consulting and buyers are encouraged to carry out their own market research.

Suppliers and Dealers

Nufab Industries
Lot 27 & 28 Moore Road
P O Box 171
Dongara WA 6525
Ph 1800 671 606

Landaco Equipment
7 Wentworth Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Ph 1800 358 600

Landaco Dealer - Rod Frahm Machinery
King Street
Clifton QLD 4361
Ph: 07- 4697 3411

Strautmann, Gason and Grizzly Dealer
Sunstate Ag
388 Taylor St
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Ph 07-4633 1150

Axon Machinery Pty Ltd
9 Beauty Dr
Whale Beach NSW 2107
Ph 02- 9974 2704

Unibar Engineering Pty Ltd
49-53 Hanbury St
Bundaberg QLD 4670
Ph 07-4152 9555

References and further reading:

Kondinin Group 2006, Fertiliser spreaders research report, *Farming Ahead*, no. 175, 18-21.



Photo 5. Spreading pattern is important for even application.

Produced by FSA Consulting as part of the "Implementation of Sustainable Management Practices for Recycled Organic Reuse for High-Risk Industries and End-use Farmers" project, Funded by the Condamine Alliance. Condamine Alliance is the regional body with lead responsibility for enabling the community to achieve sustainable natural resource management in the Condamine River catchment, at the head of Australia's largest river system, the Murray-Darling Basin.

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