

Increasing efficiency and cost savings by using digestate on the farm



John Deane reports on the benefits that Langage AD and surrounding farming community have found from using digestate (bio fertiliser) on the farm. A subsidiary of Langage Farm, Langage AD opened its doors in mid-2011 and has since been working together with farmers in the area.



Trailing shoe spreading digestate at Langage Farm, Higher Challonsleigh, near Plymouth

AD is well known for the generation of heat and energy but it also produces a nutrient rich bio fertiliser which is highly valuable to the farming community. Bio fertiliser manufactured in this way is proving to be more cost effective to use on farm than artificial fertilisers in many situations.

Benefits of bio fertiliser to the soil are wide ranging. In a brief breakdown, macronutrients such as N,P,K, Sulphur, Sodium, Magnesium and Calcium are available in varying amounts while the pH of the solution ranges from pH8 - pH 8.5, a wide variety of highly beneficial trace elements are also present in the product.

Further benefits observed from using bio fertiliser have been related to its green credentials. Bio fertiliser is made from non-fossil fuel derived products and so is a renewable source of nutrients. This fact

passes on a green stamp to farmers in the form of a unique selling point which many of their competition may not be able to claim.

Working alongside Plymouth University, Langage AD and the local farming community have used 8000 tonnes of bio fertiliser in or around the local area, collectively saving farmers somewhere in the vicinity of £37,000 in the first year.

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Interested to know more? John Deane is Environmental Resource Manager for Langage AD and can be contacted on john.deane@langagefarm.com



European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas.