END OF SECOND MONTH

MANAGEMENT UPDATES

* You should be feeding a grower diet.
* Remember to keep the pen clean and dry. It will be healthier for the chicks, and will help to keep the smell down.
* Continue providing your chicks with 8 hours of light.

POULTRY MANURE AS FERTILIZER

Accumulation of manure offers a physical and economic challenge that must be met for all confined domesticated animals. Concentrations of chickens in the broiler and egg industries has resulted in large accumulations of manure. A flock of 100,000 laying hens can produce 25,000 pounds of manure per day.

Animal manures have been used effectively as fertilizers. Poultry manure has long been recognized as perhaps the most desirable of these natural fertilizers because of its high nitrogen content.

Poultry manure contains the major plant nutrients of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). Poultry manure also contains the secondary plant nutrients calcium, sulfur, magnesium, and the minor plant nutrients zinc, copper, boron, iron, and manganese. The amounts of these nutrients can vary depending upon many factors including the age and diet of the flock, as well as the moisture content and age of the manure.

Poultry manure applications increase soil organic matter and thus improve Florida’s sandy soil for crop production. They do this in three ways:

1. Poultry manure applications increase the moisture holding capacity of the soil and improve lateral water movement, thus improving irrigation efficiency and decreasing the general droughtiness of sandy soils.
2. Poultry manure applications improve soil retention and uptake of plant nutrients, a particular problem on Florida’s light-textured soils.
3. Poultry manure applications increase the number and diversity of soil microorganisms, particularly in sandy conditions. This effect enhances crop health by increasing water and nutrient availability, as well as suppressing harmful levels of plant parasitic nematodes, fungi and bacteria.

Utilizing chicken manure as a high quality fertilizer is a recommended best management practice for sustainable agriculture when applied to meet plant nutrient needs of the intended crop.
Poultry manure is a popular fertilizer for organic farmers. A lot of vegetables are grown “organically”. How well do you know your vegetables? Can you identify the following vegetables:

1. __________________________ 2. ________________________
3. ___________________________ 4. _________________________
5. ____________________________ 6. __________________________
7. ______________________________ 8. ____________________________

Choices: asparagus, broccoli, celery, corn, cucumber, eggplant, potato, pea, squash, tomato

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