

# ***MAINTAINING SOIL FERTILITY***

## *The Top 5 most important things you need to know.....*

- 5) Maintain a minimum of 70-80% Ground Cover of plant residues, stubble etc and avoid bare fallow.
- 4) Soil test the top soil (0-10cm) separate to the sub-soil (10-30cm)
- 3) Soil test for Total nutrient as well as Available nutrients
- 2) Calculate the annual nutrient removal for each field.
- 1) Where suitable, replenish nutrients removed by applying recycled organic fertiliser such as compost or manure

## USING MANURES AS A FERTILISER ALTERNATIVE.

- Ask for an indicative nutrient analysis of the product including moisture percentage. The relative value of the product can only be quantified by a proper laboratory report and or field trials.
- Compare apples with apples. Manures contain a full spectrum of nutrients as well as valuable organic carbon that will improve the health of your soil
- Give it time. Organic sources of nutrient need to mineralise in the soil before becoming available to the plant. Under ideal conditions, up to 80-90% of the nutrient (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) can become available in the first year but normally there is a declining residual benefit of about 40-50% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and even 4<sup>th</sup> years.
- For a detailed information for use of chicken manure on **pastures** view the Best practice guidelines for using poultry litter on pastures at [http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/140359/Best-practice-guidelines-for-using-poultry-litter-on-pastures.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/140359/Best-practice-guidelines-for-using-poultry-litter-on-pastures.pdf)
- For more detailed information on using recycled organics in **cropping** systems go to [http://www.grdc.com.au/uploads/documents/GRDC\\_FS\\_RecycledOrganics.pdf](http://www.grdc.com.au/uploads/documents/GRDC_FS_RecycledOrganics.pdf)
- To receive the full 64 page Rural Industries report on using chicken manure contact us [info@fertilefarm.com.au](mailto:info@fertilefarm.com.au)

**For more information on how to improve your soil fertility, advice on fertiliser use or a quote on your fertiliser requirements, call Julian White on 0417 138 015**