

WEED SEED SURVIVAL IN LIVESTOCK MANURE HANDLING SYSTEMS. Roger Becker and Jeanie Katovich and Jerry Doll, Professor and Senior Scientist, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 and Professor Emeritus, Department of Agronomy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.

Manure is an important soil amendment and valuable resource. In addition to providing nutrients, manure enriches the microbial population and diversity and adds organic matter to the soil. Many assume manure is often rich in weed seeds. The opposite is probably the case as most of our harvested forage is relatively free of weed seeds. Exceptions obviously exist. There is no simple method to extract weed seeds from feed or manure and to then test them for viability. So our best advice is to understand current knowledge about weed seeds in manure and how they may spread weed infestations. Key factors that determine the potential for weed seed problems: feed sources, type of animals, and type of feed and manure handling systems, will be discussed in the context of weed seed survival and dispersal.