

Millcreek Manure Spreader:

Tips for Safely Spreading Manure and Compost on your Farm

The **Millcreek Manure Spreader** was purchased by **Clallam Conservation District (CCD)** using grant funds. CCD entered into an agreement with **Angeles Rentals, Equipment & Supply** to make the spreader available to horse and livestock owners in Clallam County through their equipment rental program.



MANURE SPREADER INFORMATION

This spreader is a stainless steel, ground driven unit with a capacity of 72 cubic feet designed to be pulled by a small tractor or ATV. Please refer to the online

[Operator's Manual](https://millcreekspreaders.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/27-37SS.pdf) (<https://millcreekspreaders.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/27-37SS.pdf>)

for detailed specifications, instructions, and safety guidelines, but the following are a few basic guidelines:

- Ensure compost and manure are **free of objects. Rocks and baling twine can damage the spreader.**
- Load the manure from **the front of the unit towards the back to facilitate easier unloading/spreading.**
- The unit should be towed at a speed of at least **3 MPH but not faster than 5 MPH.** The optimal speed is a **“comfortable walking pace.”**

STORING & SPREADING MANURE

- **Store manure in a dry, covered location away from surface water during the winter.** Rainfall and surface water will leach away nutrients in manure that are needed for pasture growth.
- **Only spread manure to pastures during the growing season.** This is generally March thru October. Manure should not be applied to pastures during the winter because grass is dormant and will not uptake the nutrients. Excess nutrients on winter pastures can runoff and pollute nearby streams or leach into groundwater.
- **Do No Harm**—Only apply manure when you can drive across the field without leaving ruts or causing damage to the soil structure. Do not spread manure on frozen, snow covered or saturated fields.
- **Take a soil test.** A soil test will provide information on your pasture's current nutrient levels and how much fertilizer/nutrients you need to apply for optimum grass growth. The Conservation District offers a low-cost soil testing service (refer to the *Soil Testing* brochure or our website for information).
- **Only spread manure on healthy, productive pastures.** There should be at least 3 inches of grass in fields where manure is spread. Applying manure to overgrazed pastures can lead to pollution of surface and groundwater with excess nutrients and bacteria.
- **Do not spread manure near streams, wells, ditches, ponds, or any open surface water.** Leave a buffer of at least 100 feet between waterways when spreading manure.
- **Watch the weather!** Plan to apply manure when there is at least a 3 day dry window without forecasted heavy rain events.



CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Need site specific help for your farm? Conservation Planners are available, free of charge, to make a visit to your farm to help you improve pastures, reduce weeds, and increase soil health. Visit our website at www.clallamcd.org to sign-up for a free site visit!