

BEEFCOMPOST: Optimisation of the fattening cattle manure composting process**Summary**

As its name suggests, the ultimate goal of the BEEFCOMPOST project is to find a use for manure from cattle fattening farms apart from direct application to fields.

In the current situation, the conditions under which manure can be applied directly to fields will be increasingly limited. For this reason, and within the context of the circular economy (*using better what we already use*) the aim is to allocate a proportion of cattle manure to producing high quality compost, to enable nutrients to be exported to other more remote agricultural areas in the form of organic fertilisers.

Objectives

To achieve this goal there are two specific objectives that need to be met:

- a) Reduce the tonnes of manure produced per stall and per year from fattening calves.
- b) Improve the quality of fertiliser produced by composting manure from fattening cattle.

The data in this project will also be used in the future to improve estimates of the tonnes of manure produced per stall per year, the effects of its storage and the changes during the year.

Emissions of ammonia (acidifying and eutrophication gas) and greenhouse gases (nitrous oxide and methane) will also be reduced, as:

- a) Because it reduces the tonnage, the proposed strategy is related to reducing the excretion of nitrogen in manure.
- b) As it is an aerobic process, composting reduces methane emissions.
- c) The proposed strategy for improving the quality of composting seeks to retain the N content, thereby reducing ammonia emissions.

Description of the measures planned in the project

As its name suggests, the ultimate goal of the BEEFCOMPOST project is to find a use for manure from cattle fattening farms apart from direct application to fields.

In the current situation, the conditions under which manure can be applied directly to fields will be increasingly limited. For this reason, and within the context of the circular economy (*using better what we already use*) the aim is to allocate a proportion of cattle manure to producing high quality compost, to enable nutrients to be exported to other more remote agricultural areas in the form of organic fertilisers.

Expected results and practical recommendations

At the end of the project, there will be a manual for optimising the management of livestock manure from fattening cattle for use in composting plants, and the waste is anticipated to become a high quality organic fertiliser with added value.

Leader of the Operational Group

ORGANISATION: AGROPECUÀRIA MONTGAI, SL

CONTACT E-MAIL: agromont@agromont.es

Coordinator of the Operational Group

ORGANISATION: ASOPROVAC CATALUNYA

CONTACT E-MAIL: catalunya@asoprovac.com

Other members of the Operational Group (grant recipients)

ORGANISATION: CORPORACIÓ AGROALIMENTÀRIA DE GUISSONA

CONTACT E-MAIL: josep.ribo@bonarea.com

Other members of the Operational Group (not recipients of the grant)

ORGANISATION: IRTA

CONTACT E-MAIL: maria.devant@irta.cat

ORGANISATION: JUNCOSA LIVESTOCK FARMERS

CONTACT E-MAIL: ramadersdejuncosa@hotmail.com

ORGANISATION: ALCARRÀS CATTLE ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION (AEBA)

CONTACT E-MAIL: gestio@alcarrasbovi.net

Subject area(s) of application

- Agricultural production system
- Agricultural practice
- Agricultural equipment and machinery
- Livestock farming and animal welfare
- Vegetable production and horticulture
- Landscape / Territorial management
- Pest and disease control
- Fertilisation and nutrient management
- Soil management
- Genetic resources
- Forestry
- Water management
- Climate and Climate Change
- Energy management
- Waste and by-product management
- Biodiversity and environmental management
- Food quality/processing and nutrition
- Supply chain, marketing and consumption
- Competitiveness and agricultural and forestry diversification
- General

Geographical area(s) of application

PROVINCE(S)	REGION(S)
BARCELONA/TARRAGONA/LLEIDA/GIRONA	BARCELONA/TARRAGONA/LLEIDA/GIRONA

Dissemination of the project (publications, seminars, multimedia, etc.)

Publication on the Asoprovac Catalunya website. Information seminars all over Catalonia. Asoprovac Catalonia Newsletter.

More information on the project

PROJECT DATES	TOTAL BUDGET
Start date (month-year): July 2019	Total budget: €149,428.20
Completion date (month-year):	DARP funding: €61,068.20
Current status: Underway	EU funding: €46,069.00
	Own funding: €42,291.00

With funding from:

Project funded through Operation 16.01.01 (Cooperation for Innovation) through the Catalan Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

Order ARP/133/2017 of 21 June, approving the regulatory bases for grants for cooperation for innovation by promoting the creation of European Association for Innovation operational groups in the areas of agricultural productivity and sustainability and the execution of innovative pilot projects by those groups, and Resolution ARP/1282/2018, of 8 June, announcing the call for the grant.

