



## Solids Reduction Dramatically Improves Manure Handling In Western Pennsylvania with MICROBE-LIFT®

**Location:** Farmer Boy Agricultural Supply Co., ViewFamily Farms (CVFF), Western Pennsylvania

**Background:** This was a CVFF contracted sow farm constructed with shallow manure pits in two barns, each followed by million gallon collection pits.

**Objective:** This farm was experiencing problems with their large pull-plug operations. The shallow pits in the barns were blocked with sludge causing additional problems in their two million gallon collection pits. One of these collection pits had developed a cone-shaped sludge pile measuring 18 feet high, extending from the pit bottom to the surface of the water level when the pit was full. It was difficult to effectively agitate the manure and pumping was almost impossible.

To resolve his problem, the contract pumper was willing to try **MICROBE-LIFT®** technology.

**Solution:** In 2006, a low dosage program to treat the shallow pits was recommended. This program resolved the shallow pit problems within the first 60 days of treatment. In addition, when the two million gallon collection pits were pumped out in the following spring, the contract pumper reported that for the first time since he had been servicing this farm, he could pump the holding lagoons without any problems. This resulted in a large savings in time and expense to CVFF. In addition, the cone-shaped sludge pile in the first million-gallon collection pit was totally eliminated in one growing season, while only treating the shallow pits in the barns.



**Fig.1:** CVFF sow operation. The effluent sent to two receiving lagoons every one to two weeks.

**Treatment:**

Treatment was continued in an effort to resolve problems in the downstream receiving lagoons. The results are depicted in the pictures below:



**Fig. 2:** Downstream lagoon after six months of treatment of the manure pit with MICROBE-LIFT®/HOG. No treatment was added directly to this waste lagoon yet a substantial amount of crust has been removed and clear zones are beginning to appear.



**Fig. 3:** The second lagoon was completely cleared of solids after the six-month pit treatment.

**Results:**

After a six-month treatment program on all barn pits, the results were impressive. Solids were eliminated from all barn pits, odor was reduced, and surface and bottom solids in the storage lagoons were eliminated. Pit pumping problems were resolved and an astonishing six to seven feet of bottom solids were removed from the lagoons.

Based on these results, Farmer Boy Supply expanded its distribution of MICROBE-LIFT® technology from Pennsylvania to New York and Ohio.

For more information on MICROBE-LIFT® Technology contact  
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