

CHEMICAL AND MICROBIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES
OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTION OF LIVESTOCK MANURE,
A LITERATURE REVIEW

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the literature on the effects of anaerobic digesters and lagoons on components of animal manure slurry that are potential water pollutants: plant nutrients, oxygen demanding substances, trace metals, and pathogenic microorganisms. The fate of these constituents in pre-digestion separated solids, liquid effluent, and settled sludge is discussed.

It has long been known that anaerobic digestion reduces oxygen demanding substances in animal manure slurry by up to 90%. This has an immediate water quality impact in cases where appreciable amounts of slurry reach water bodies. Other slurry components of particular water quality significance are nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, because of their role in promoting eutrophication. The dominant species of nitrogen in anaerobically digested slurry is ammonium. Through pH manipulation and temperature control, anaerobic digesters can be operated to either conserve ammonium-nitrogen in the effluent or to gas it off. (Elevated pH and/or temperature favor the existence of the gaseous ammonia over the non-volatile ammonium ion.) Phosphorus compounds and potassium are partitioned between sludge and supernatant, but are totally conserved. Both ammonium-ammonia transformation and the partition of nutrients are accelerated with increasing temperatures. This is evident even within the range of ambient temperatures at which lagoons operate.

Pathogenic organisms demonstrate a wide variety of sensitivities to anaerobic digestion in animal waste. Temperature, retention time, and organism type are key factors in predicting the ability of a digester to inactivate pathogens.

At ambient temperatures, retention times on the order of months or years would be required to inactivate many species of bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Anaerobic lagoons with residence times in excess of 300 days will demonstrate substantial reductions in many (but not all) pathogenic species. The extended retention times typical of lagoons designed for methane recovery are likely to produce effluents of significantly improved microbiological quality.

Mesophilic or thermophilic anaerobic digestion of slurry causes an accelerated inactivation of vegetative, non-spore-forming bacteria when compared with inactivation during anaerobic storage at lower temperatures. Decimal reduction times (the time required to reduce the concentration of organisms by 90%) of these bacteria are of the order of hours or minutes at thermophilic temperatures (46° to 66°C), days at mesophilic temperatures (27° to 46°C) and weeks or months at psychrophilic temperatures (2° to 27°C).

Spore forming bacterial species, whether anaerobic like *Clostridium* or aerobic like *Bacillus*, and certain life stages of some helminth parasites seem to be quite resistant to anaerobic digestion at ambient temperatures or even at elevated temperatures. Some viruses can withstand 50 days digestion at 50°C. However, thermophilic as well as mesophilic digestion coupled with thermophilic pre-treatment will result in a sufficient reduction of both vegetative pathogenic

bacteria and intestinal parasites occurring in concentrations usually found in animal waste to allow for unrestricted use of the effluent in agriculture. This cannot be said for brief mesophilic digestion used alone.

This report contains an exhaustive tabulation of the decimal reduction times for a variety of pathogens under anaerobic digestion in animal slurry at various temperatures. These statistics can be used to size a lagoon or a digester -- to determine the retention time necessary to clear or reduce initial pathogen populations to acceptable levels. For example, to reduce an initial population of 10^7 total coliforms per milliliter to 10^2 per milliliter an anaerobic lagoon must be large enough to provide a retention time of 390 days, which is 6 times the decimal reduction time of 65 days at 6° to 15°C (see Table 22). A digester operating at 35°C should provide a retention time of 33 days (6 times 5.5 days, same table). To reduce the concentration of 10^4 *Giardia* cysts per milliliter to less than one per milliliter, it would take about 150 days at 15°C, that is, 5 times 30 days (Table 39).

If anaerobic digesters and lagoons are designed with pathogen reduction requirements in mind, their ability to eliminate certain pathogens from animal slurry has potential public health benefits where concentrated livestock production facilities are located near drinking water sources. Similarly, if sized for pathogen reduction, anaerobic digesters have the potential to reduce the cycle of re-infection of livestock via land disposal of contaminated waste.

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Chemical and Microbiological Consequences of Anaerobic Digestion of Livestock Manure, a Literature Review

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is intended to serve as a reference summarizing the effects of anaerobic digesters and lagoons on constituents of livestock manures considered to be potential sources of water pollution, specifically human and animal pathogens, chemical and biochemical oxygen demanding carbon compounds, and the plant nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Since the literature is sparse on the subject of water quality effects of methane recovery systems, information primarily describing effluent and sludge quality from anaerobic digesters and lagoons is assembled. The benefits are inferred from the difference between the raw waste and the stabilized end products. Issues affecting the end product quality are discussed as well.

A second purpose of this report is to provide detailed information useful in modeling studies that could support claims of possible "collateral benefits" of installing methane recovery systems (MRS) on livestock producing farms.

Collateral benefits for MRS are those benefits that will accrue in addition to the generation of methane and its use as energy. Primarily they fall into four categories, fertilizer savings, water pollution abatement, odor control, and disease control.

The amount of fertilizer savings realized depends on how manure was disposed prior to the installation of the methane recovery system. There may be in fact no fertilizer savings, though it is conceivable that a MRS which provided an enhanced storage capacity could give the farmer more flexibility in the timing of the effluent and sludge applications, which could translate into fertilizer savings.

Likewise, the degree of water pollution abatement achieved is also relative to the degree of water pollution experienced prior to installation of a methane recovery system. A well designed MRS can be used to clean up a messy barnyard, and may significantly improve the storm water runoff quality. Furthermore, the timing of waste application to fields can be improved to minimize contaminated runoff from cropland and pasture. A Methane Recovery System can be used to conserve nutrients or to get rid of them. Farms which generate significantly more nitrogen than should be applied to the available fields can operate a MRS to strip out ammonia-nitrogen from the waste, or to blow it off into the atmosphere.

A methane recovery system can be managed to reduce odor problems, though some unpleasant odors are inevitable when parts of the system go aerobic, such as when a lagoon needs to be emptied for the removal of accumulated sludge. Fly problems are also mitigated by the installation

of MRS.

Disease can be transmitted to humans and other animals via livestock manure when the manure is released into the environment by spreading on fields and pastures and becomes available for transport by surface runoff. Table 1 lists a sampling of major pathogens found in animal manures.

Table 1. Some diseases and parasites transmittable to humans from animal manure #50

DISEASE	RESPONSIBLE ORGANISM
Bacteria (0.5 - 2.0 μm diameter)	
Salmonellosis	<i>Salmonella</i> sp.
Leptospirosis	<i>Leptospira pomona</i>
Anthrax	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>
Tuberculosis	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> , <i>Mycobacterium avium</i>
Johnes disease	<i>Mycobacterium paratuberculosis</i>
Brucellosis	<i>Brucella abortus</i> , <i>Brucella melitensis</i> , <i>Brucella suis</i>
Listeriosis	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>
Tetanus	<i>Clostridium tetani</i>
Tularemia	<i>Pasteurella tularensis</i>
Erysipelas	<i>Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae</i>
Colibacillosis	<i>Escherichia coli</i> (some serotypes)
Coliform mastitis-metritis	<i>Escherichia coli</i> (some serotypes)
Rickettsia	
Q fever	<i>Coxiella burneti</i>
Viruses (0.025 - 0.1 μm diameter)	
New Castle	virus
Hog Cholera	virus
Foot and Mouth	virus
Psittacosis	virus
Fungi	
Coccidioidomycosis	<i>Coccidioides immitus</i>
Histoplasmosis	<i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i>
Ringworm	Various <i>microsporium</i> and <i>trichophyton</i>
Protozoa (7.0 - 50 μm diameter)	
Coccidiosis	<i>Eimeria</i> sp.
Balantidiasis	<i>Balatidium coli</i>
Giardiasis	<i>Giardia lamblia</i>
Cryptospridiasis	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> sp.
Toxoplasmosis	<i>Toxoplasma</i> sp.
Parasites/Metazoa (>50μm diameter)	
Ascariasis	<i>Ascaris lumbricoides</i>
Sarcocystiasis	<i>Sarcosystis</i> sp.

Many of the microorganisms pathogenic to both animals and man are transmitted via the fecal-oral route. According to Stelma, *et al.*, #13, most of these pathogens could conceivably be transmitted through a shellfish vector. Bacteria potentially transmitted from animal to man via shellfish include most of the salmonellae, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Campylobacter jejuni* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. The protozoa most likely to be transmitted in this way are *Giardia lamblia* and *Cryptosporidium* spp. Because the enteric viruses are highly species specific, they are not likely to be transmitted from animals to humans. A possible exception are the rotaviruses, which have been isolated from a variety of animals including cattle, sheep, and goat. Cross-species transmissions of rotaviruses is recognized: human to non-human and *vice versa*. Rotaviruses are also environmentally stable in fresh and marine waters.

Reservoirs for *Yersinia enterocolitica* include most domestic mammals, particularly swine. Reservoirs for *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* include a wide variety of domestic mammals and fowl. The recently discovered hemorrhagic colitis strains of *Escherichia coli* belonging to the O157:h7 serotype are usually acquired after ingestion of either rare ground beef or raw milk. They have also been shown to have been transmitted via water. These verotoxin producing strains have been isolated from calves and pigs with enteric diseases and from retail pork and lamb. Reservoirs of *Campylobacter jejuni* include cattle, sheep, swine, dogs, and domestic poultry.

Table 2 lists the number of waterborne disease outbreaks reported to the Center for Disease Control from 1966 through 1984. The shaded entries are those that probably had no agricultural link.

Table 2. Etiology of Waterborne Disease Outbreaks in the U. S. 1966 - 1984 #107

	1966-1970	1971-1975	1976-1980	1981-1984
Amoebiasis	3			1
Campylobacteriosis			3	6
Chemical poisoning	4	13	25	11
Cholera				1
Cryptosporidium				1
Gastroenteritis, unknown origin	21	63	114	59
Gastroenteritis, viral			10	8
Giardiasis	2	13	26	48
Hepatitis A	19	14	2	7
Salmonellosis	4	2	6	2
Shigellosis	14	14	10	7
Toxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i> AGI		1		
Typhoid fever	4	4		
Yersiniosis				1

Many of the diseases endemic to livestock operations are transmitted to the herds by the fecal oral

route. For example, Paratuberculosis in ruminants, caused by infection with *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, is mainly acquired by oral ingestion of contaminated water or feed. Application of contaminated slurry or manure to pasture may therefore contribute to the spread of the disease. #66

Anaerobic digestion is known to be able to deactivate many pathogens present in animal waste. The lethality is temperature and pH sensitive, with differing levels of deactivation achieved under different conditions. Also the mixing characteristics and detention time of the reactor influence the survival of pathogens in the effluent.

It is conceivable that anaerobic digesters operated at high temperatures could be used to decontaminate large amounts of animal wastes. The tables found later in this text contain the deactivation rates of a wide variety of pathogenic organisms under anaerobic digestion in manure. One can find the organism of interest and determine the temperature and duration of digestion necessary to reduce the population to acceptable levels.

Before the microbiological aspects of anaerobic digestion are considered, the effects of anaerobic digestion of manure in lagoons, digesters, and laboratory glassware on nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, oxygen demanding carbon compounds, and trace metals are presented.

ANAEROBIC DIGESTION: INFLUENT AND EFFLUENT CHEMISTRY

Lagoons and Ponds

Anaerobic lagoons provide biological treatment and long-term storage. They usually are smaller than aerobic lagoons and decompose more organic matter per unit volume, but aerobic lagoons provide a higher degree of treatment with less odor production. #69

Lagoons can be covered, partially covered, or uncovered; earthen, clay lined, or concrete. They operate at ambient temperature, are usually not intentionally mixed, and have longer detention times than digesters. They have long been used as to treat concentrated organic wastes. Their end products are in the forms of liquid supernate, semi-solid sludge, and waste gases.

Large reductions in BOD₅ and COD can be expected in effluents from anaerobic lagoons, especially when the detention time is long. #67 Organic constituents of swine waste are removed in anaerobic lagoon systems primarily by microbial stabilization and subsequent release of methane and carbon dioxide. Net sludge settling also accounts for about 30% losses of both total organic carbon (TOC) and chemical oxygen demand (COD). #57 As with organic nitrogen compounds, some surface losses due to volatilization of short chain molecules occurs. BOD reductions in anaerobic lagoons can be a respectable 40-90% (Table 3); however, due to the high

Table 3. Percent Reduction of Nutrients, Solids, Oxygen Demanding Substances Achieved in Anaerobic Lagoons

		percent reduction	animal type	reference
BOD	anaerobic lagoon	40 - 90%	--	#67
BOD	anaerobic lagoon	80 - 90%	swine	#57
BOD	anaerobic lagoon	88%	dairy	#93
COD	anaerobic lagoon	89 - 90%	swine	#70
COD	anaerobic lagoon	75 - 90%	swine	#57
COD	covered lagoon	70%	dairy	#74
TS	anaerobic lagoon	50%	dairy	#93
VS	anaerobic lagoon	83%	dairy	#92
VS	2-cell anaerobic lagoon with recycle	76 - 84%	dairy	#97
VS	average of 5 anaerobic lagoons	55%	dairy	#101
VS	average of 8 anaerobic lagoons	81%	swine	#101
VS	average of 7 anaerobic lagoons	80%	poultry	#101
TN	bottom loading pit	0 - 20%	swine	#76
TN	ponds and pits	8 - 50%	dairy	#52
TN	covered lagoon	30%	dairy	#74
TN	covered lagoon	20 - 30%	swine	#76
TN	uncovered lagoon	30 - 40%	swine	#76
TN	anaerobic lagoon	65 - 80%	beef and dairy	#50
TN	anaerobic lagoon	70 - 80%	swine and poultry	#50
TN	anaerobic lagoon	45 - 65%	swine	#52
TN	anaerobic slurry	60%	poultry	#52
TN	anaerobic lagoon plus surface spreading	55 - 80%	swine	#76
TN	deep pit plus liquid spreading	35 - 65%	--	#52
TN	anaerobic lagoon plus liquid spreading	60 - 80%	--	#52
TN	anaerobic lagoon	70 - 90%	swine	#69
TN	2-cell anaerobic lagoon with recycle	73 - 85%	dairy	#97
org.N	2-cell anaerobic lagoon with recycle	58 - 63%	dairy	#97
TP	covered lagoon	30%	dairy	#74
TP	anaerobic lagoon	50 - 65%	beef and dairy	#50
TP	anaerobic lagoon	50 - 65%	swine and poultry	#50
TP	anaerobic lagoon plus liquid spreading	30 - 50%	--	#52
o-PO ₄	anaerobic lagoon	32%	dairy	#93
K	anaerobic lagoon	25%	swine	#57
K	anaerobic lagoon	35 - 50%	beef and dairy	#50
K	anaerobic lagoon	40 - 50%	poultry and swine	#50

loading rates, the effluent from anaerobic lagoons is unlikely to be suitable for discharge to surface waters, even with high BOD removals (#67). The effluent will contain significant concentrations of oxygen demanding material, solids, and nutrients. The quality of the effluent is decreased during start-up operations and when low temperatures exist in the lagoon.

The settling of particulate phosphorus and potassium forms accounts for the observed losses of 25% to 65% of influent concentrations. The salts in swine waste are removed in an anaerobic lagoon by chelation-settling or precipitation. #57 Losses of various cations can range from less than 10% to over 90%. #63 Settling solids prior to discharging swine wastes to a lagoon significantly decreases phosphorus levels in the lagoon.

The TN story is more complex. A wide range of nitrogen losses are recorded, from zero to 80%. These studies are really not contradictory, but require a bit of interpretation. The study reporting 0% reduction concerned a system where effluent entered in the bottom, and settled solids were not considered "lost". In the other studies there is an immediate loss of 25 to 40% of the N to the settled solids. Detention time has a non-intuitive influence on nitrogen loss. One might expect that nitrogen loss would increase monotonically with detention time due to settling and volatilization, however, Overcash and Humenik #57 reported that for swine waste, initial nitrogen loss due to settling is approximately 40% of the input, but after sludge biological activity and transfer to the supernatant, the net amount of nitrogen loss to the sludge is about 25%.

Actual nitrogen loss from anaerobic lagoons (assuming that sludge bound nitrogen is not lost but stored) is attributed primarily to surface volatilization of ammonia (#57), which can be as little as 5% or 10% of the total N or could be in excess of 50%. Lorimer *et al.* #63 observed that nitrogen concentrations decreased by as much as 50% during the summer period in a deep pit holding beef manure (from a spring high of 10000 mg/l TN to a summer low of 5,000 mg/l), and attributed the loss to ammonia volatilization. The magnitude of ammonia losses through volatilization is temperature and pH dependent, with the largest losses occurring at summer temperatures and pHs above 7.0.

Nitrogen loss from anaerobic lagoons occurs primarily as surface volatilization of ammonia. #57 In the case of swine waste, because of the high fraction of ammonia in the raw waste (50% initially) and lagoon supernatant, the conversion of organic nitrogen to ammonia does not appear to be a limiting step in nitrogen loss. Secondary nitrogen losses can be attributed to the net solid material remaining in the lagoon sludge (around 25%). A tertiary nitrogen loss mechanism is the volatilization of short chain organic compounds such as amines. While this pathway probably is small as a nitrogen loss, the impact as an odor or nuisance problem is well documented.

Overcash and Humenik #57 claimed that the anaerobic lagoon is a flexible treatment process which can be designed or operated to yield a variety of effluent concentrations. With respect to nitrogen, a lagoon can be used for nitrogen conservation or for dissipating the majority of the input nitrogen. These authors generalized 12 data sets and derived regression equations for

Table 4. Beef and Dairy Anaerobic Lagoon Effluent, Nutrient Concentrations

	Operation type	Concentration	Reference
TS	Beef deep pit	11.7%	#63
TS	Dairy anaerobic lagoon	0.25%	#50
TS	Dairy covered lagoon	0.38%	#74
TS	Beef anaerobic lagoon	0.478% - 0.59%	#56
TS	Beef anaerobic lagoon	0.412%	#100
COD	Dairy anaerobic lagoon	1506 mg/l	#50
COD	Dairy covered lagoon	3440 mg/l	#74
COD	Beef anaerobic lagoon	4700 - 5500 mg/l	#56
COD	Beef anaerobic lagoon	2450 mg/l	#100
VS	Dairy anaerobic lagoon	1104 mg/l	#50
VS	Dairy covered lagoon	1976 mg/l	#74
VS	Beef anaerobic lagoon	2870 - 3710 mg/l	#56
BOD	Dairy anaerobic lagoon	200 - 1200 mg/l	#50
BOD	Beef anaerobic lagoon	200 - 2500 mg/l	#50
BOD	Dairy anaerobic lagoon	352 mg/l	#50
BOD	Beef anaerobic lagoon	1340 - 1420 mg/l	#56
TN	Beef deep pit	6992 mg/l	#63
TN	Dairy anaerobic lagoon	201 mg/l	#50
TN	Dairy covered lagoon	511 mg/l	#74
TN	Beef anaerobic lagoon	360-500 mg/l	#56
TN	Beef anaerobic lagoon	274 mg/l	#100
NH ₄ -N	Beef anaerobic lagoon	162 mg/l	#100
P	Beef deep pit	1230 mg/l	#63
P	Dairy covered lagoon	125 mg/l	#74
P	Dairy anaerobic lagoon	58 mg/l	#50
P	Beef anaerobic lagoon	73 mg/l	#100
o-PO ₄	Beef anaerobic lagoon	61 mg/l	#100
K	Beef anaerobic lagoon	562 mg/l	#100
K	Beef deep pit	1902 mg/l	#63
K	Dairy anaerobic lagoon	502 mg/l	#50

Table 5. Swine and Poultry Anaerobic Lagoon Effluent, Nutrient Concentrations

	Operation type	Concentration	Reference
TS	Swine anaerobic lagoon	0.5%	#63
TS	Swine anaerobic lagoon	0.13%	#70
TS	Swine anaerobic lagoon	0.25%	#50
TS	Swine anaerobic lagoon	3091 mg/l	#98
TS	5 Swine anaerobic lagoons with recycle	0.173 - 0.521%	#100
TS	2 Poultry anaerobic lagoons	0.437 - 0.534%	#100
COD	Swine anaerobic lagoon	880 mg/l	#70
COD	Swine anaerobic lagoon	1205 mg/l	#50
COD	Swine anaerobic lagoon	940 - 3850 mg/l	#56
COD	Poultry anaerobic lagoon	590 - 2550 mg/l	#56
COD	5 Swine anaerobic lagoons with recycle	970 - 2371 mg/l	#100
COD	2 Poultry anaerobic lagoons	1882 - 1972 mg/l	#100
VS	Swine anaerobic lagoon	580 mg/l	#70
VS	Swine anaerobic lagoon	850 - 2330 mg/l	#56
VS	Swine anaerobic lagoon	1329 mg/l	#98
BOD	Swine anaerobic lagoon	300 - 3600 mg/l	#50
BOD	Poultry anaerobic lagoon	600 - 3800 mg/l	#50
BOD	Poultry anaerobic lagoon	320 - 1350 mg/l	#56
BOD	Swine anaerobic lagoon	401 mg/l	#50
TN	Swine anaerobic lagoon	804 mg/l	#63
TN	Swine anaerobic lagoon	300 mg/l	#70
TN	Swine anaerobic lagoon	351 mg/l	#50
TN	Poultry anaerobic lagoon	113 - 290 mg/l	#56
TN	Swine anaerobic lagoon	439 mg/l	#98
TN	5 Swine anaerobic lagoons with recycle	391 - 827 mg/l	#100
TN	2 Poultry anaerobic lagoons	489 - 800 mg/l	#100
NH ₄ -N	5 Swine anaerobic lagoons with recycle	336 - 778 mg/l	#100
NH ₄ -N	2 Poultry anaerobic lagoons	403 - 737 mg/l	#100
P	Swine anaerobic lagoon	73 mg/l	#63
P	Swine anaerobic lagoon	76 mg/l	#50
P	Swine anaerobic lagoon	70 mg/l	#98
P	5 Swine anaerobic lagoons with recycle	69 - 175 mg/l	#100
P	2 Poultry anaerobic lagoons	53 - 112 mg/l	#100
o -PO ₄	5 Swine anaerobic lagoons with recycle	56 - 164 mg/l	#100
o -PO ₄	2 Poultry anaerobic lagoons	42 - 102 mg/l	#100
K	Swine anaerobic lagoon	416 mg/l	#63
K	Swine anaerobic lagoon	381 mg/l	#50
K	Swine anaerobic lagoon	366 mg/l	#98
K	5 Swine anaerobic lagoons with recycle	285 - 1129 mg/l	#100
K	2 Poultry anaerobic lagoons	936 - 1338 mg/l	#100

effluent quality as a function of loading rate of volatile solids. The data spread was enormous and the regressions were pretty weak. Regardless, their results are summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. Effluent TKN, COD and BOD₅ as a percent of influent for different lagoon loading rates, anaerobic swine lagoons, literature synthesis #57 and #97

Loading rate, kg VS/week·m ³	COD remaining in effluent	BOD ₅ remaining in effluent	TKN remaining in effluent
1.08	40 - 60%	25 - 40%	70%
0.55	10 - 25%	10 - 20%	40%
0.13	2 - 10%	3 - 6%	15 %

Nitrogen in fresh manure is mostly in the organic form (60 to 80% of the total N). In an anaerobic lagoon, the organic fraction is typically 20 to 30 percent of total N. #50

The NH₄-N shows a cyclic trend over time, probably due to temperature effects on lagoon biological activity. #100 Highest NH₄-N concentrations usually occur during the spring and summer, similar to data reported in #102.

Table 4 contains a few samples of the concentrations of certain compounds of interest found in the effluents from different beef and dairy lagoons. Table 5 contains reports of these compounds in effluents from swine and poultry lagoons. The effluent quality obviously depends heavily on the influent chemistry and especially on the amount of dilution. For instance, one can see the influence of dilution by contrasting the results of study #63 a beef operation with study #50 of a highly diluted effluent from a dairy lagoon.

Three years of monitoring of the influent and effluent of a methane generating covered lagoon allowed the following analysis (Figure 1 and Tables 5 and 6) of the effect of operating temperature on nutrient removal, # 74. The lagoon held dairy waste from a 200 cow operation for a retention time of 60 days. Solids were separated prior to digestion. This study demonstrates that even within the operating range of 7°C to 30°C the nutrient removal rate can differ by as much as a factor of two. The worst performance occurred at the lowest temperatures.

Figure 1. Temperature Effects on the Nutrient Removal Efficiency of an Anaerobic Lagoon: Ratio of Effluent Concentration to Influent Concentration

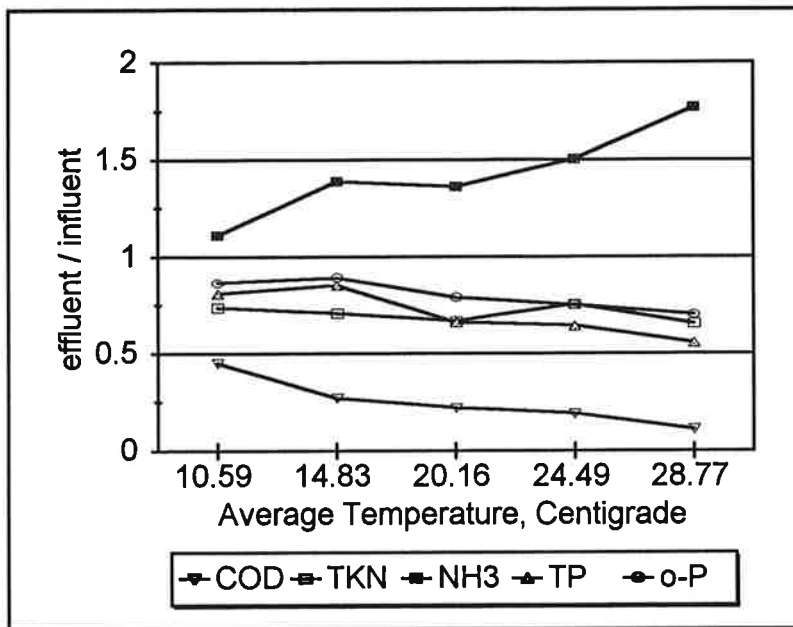


Table 7. Temperature Effects on the Operation of a Covered Lagoon, Percent reduction #74

Average Temperature, °C	TKN % reduction	NH3 % increase	TP % reduction	o-P % reduction	COD % reduction
10.6	26%	11%	19%	14%	55%
14.8	29%	39%	15%	11%	73%
20.2	33%	36%	34%	21%	78%
24.5	25%	50%	36%	25%	81%
28.8	34%	77%	44%	30%	89%

Table 8. Temperature Effects on the Operation of a Covered Lagoon, Influent and Effluent Quality #74

Average Temperature, °C	Influent TKN, mg/l	Influent NH ₃ , mg/l	Influent TP, mg/l	Influent o-P, mg/l	Influent COD, mg/l
10.6	842	276	212	138	15012
14.8	706	223	165	114	10709
20.2	693	232	166	117	11214
24.5	569	205	144	112	8538
28.8	625	185	162	115	12016
Average Temperature, °C	Effluent TKN, mg/l	Effluent NH ₃ , mg/l	Effluent TP, mg/l	Effluent o-P, mg/l	Effluent COD, mg/l
10.6	620	307	171	119	6831
14.8	499	310	140	102	2909
20.2	461	316	110	92	2486
24.5	428	308	93	84	1653
28.8	409	327	90	80	1320

Overcash and Humenik #57 generalized 12 studies of anaerobic lagoons and reported attenuation of a variety of cations and anions (Table 9). The effluent calcium, potassium sodium, and chlorine concentrations were about 75% of the influent while magnesium, copper, manganese, and zinc are present at about 10% of the influent levels.

Table 9. Cations and Anions in Effluent from Anaerobic Swine Lagoons, Literature Review #57

	% remaining in effluent	median effluent concentration, mg/l
K	75%	340
Na	75%	220
Ca	20%	89
Mg	60%	53
Cu	3%	0.4
Zn	10%	0.9
Mn	15%	1.0
Cl	75%	335
Al		5.6
Ni		0.4
B		0.65
Cr		3.1
Fe		2.8
Pb		1.5
Mb		0.02

Tables 10 and 11 report coupled lagoon effluent and sludge characteristics. Table 11 makes the distinction between the sludge "bed" and a sludge "blanket", a whimsical nomenclature that describes the denser semisolid sludge and the wispy semi-liquid solids layer that covers it, respectively.

Table 10. Average Composition of Swine Lagoon Supernate and Sludge #98

Parameter	Supernate	Sludge
TS	3,091 mg/l	203,843 mg/l
VS/TS	0.43	0.31
TKN	439 mg/l	4,531 mg/l
NH ₃ -N/TKN	0.78	0.25
NH ₄ -N	342 mg/l	1134 mg/l
P	70 mg/l	3,723 mg/l
K	366 mg/l	1,773 mg/l
Na	470 mg/l	4627 mg/l
Ca	257 mg/l	6,176 mg/l
Mg	64 mg/l	1,514 mg/l
Cu	0.99 mg/l	40 mg/l
Zn	1.84 mg/l	181 mg/l

Table 11. Average TKN, NH₄-N and P in Supernatant and Sludge of Livestock Lagoons #101

Animal	Depth	TKN mg/l	NH ₄ -N mg/l	P mg/l
Poultry: Layer	supernatant	491	402	88
	sludge blanket	1875	620	1369
	sludge bed	3884	898	5525
Poultry: Pullet	supernatant	334	259	81
	sludge blanket	1436	427	879
	sludge bed	2912	589	3323
Swine	supernatant	285	180	105
	sludge blanket	871	286	524
	sludge bed	2830	496	2493
Dairy	supernatant	179	119	48
	sludge blanket	704	171	162
	sludge bed	2546	328	1143

Anaerobic Digesters

The data on changes in plant nutrients during the operation of livestock manure digesters are even more sparse than data for lagoons. Ideally one would like to present data for the range of temperatures at which digesters are operated¹ and for a representative range of hydraulic retention times. Unfortunately, such an analysis could not be assembled from the peer-reviewed literature. Most of the studies which specified operating temperature and which reported both influent and effluent concentrations or which reported percent reduction of N, P, and K compounds were for digesters operating at 35°C, a mesophilic temperature (Table 12).

Digester effluent has half the COD and 20% of the BOD of untreated waste. A subjective assessment of odor indicated a large reduction by digestion. Most of the sulfur compounds which would be responsible for waste odors appear to be released as gasses during digestion, which then dissolve in the water in the condensate traps of the gas holder. #3

The concentration of N, P, and K are the same in the effluent from an anaerobic digester as in the influent manure. #8 The nitrogen in the effluent is approximately 70% ammonia nitrogen whereas the nitrogen in the influent is approximately 30% ammonia. Anaerobic treatment of livestock manure converts a large proportion of the organic nitrogen content of fresh manure into ammonia, converting on the average of two thirds of the organic nitrogen to ammonia. #30

Comparing Tables 3 and 12, one observes that less nitrogen is lost from digesters than from lagoons. This is because digesters are more tightly "closed" than lagoons, allowing less ammonia to escape, and because in digesters the nitrogen entering the solid phase is not considered lost. For the latter reason one would also expect negligible phosphorus and potassium loss. This has led to the claim that the effluent from a digester still contains most of the original nutrients. #2

Laboratory Studies

Laboratory studies of the anaerobic digestion of animal wastes (Table 13) give results loosely comparable to the performance of digesters operated under similar mixing and feeding schedules. Of course, laboratory studies have no spillage, leakage, incomplete mixing, variable feed composition, non-uniform heating, or other problems that commonly beset actual digesters. Furthermore, lab studies often utilize small test volumes and long detention times. Therefore, laboratory results should be considered separately from field study results, though they may produce very similar trends. The laboratory studies cited employed continuous mixing, which means that no sludge layer was allowed to form. Therefore, these lab studies are not analogous to anaerobic lagoon studies, where significant losses may occur to in the settled solids. There are

¹Three temperature regimes are commonly referenced, psychrophilic temperatures, from 1°C to 27°C; mesophilic temperatures, from 27°C to 45°C; and thermophilic temperatures, from 45°C to 66°C. These terms refer to the temperatures preferences of the digester bacteria.

really too few studies here to form generalizations about the curious loss of phosphorus in the continuous-feed experiment #10.

Table 12. Performance of Anaerobic Digesters at Mesophilic and Thermophilic Temperatures

	Temperature	Manure type	Percent Reduction	Reference
BOD	35°C	swine	84% - 90%	#73
BOD	35°C	swine	80%	#3
COD	35°C	swine	30% - 53%	#73
COD	35°C	swine	51%	#3
COD	45°C	beef	41%	#75
COD	50°C	beef	42%	#75
COD	55°C	beef	44%	#75
TS	35°C	swine	28% - 45%	#73
TS	35°C	swine	40%	#3
TS	35°C	swine	40%	#1
TS	45°C	beef	48%	#75
TS	50°C	beef	44%	#75
TS	55°C	beef	50%	#75
TN	35°C	swine	12%	#2
TN	35°C	swine	0%	#1
TN	45°C	beef	0%	#75
TN	50°C	beef	0%	#75
TN	55°C	beef	0%	#75
NH ₄	35°C	swine	95% increase	#2
NH ₄	35°C	swine	10% reduction	#3
organic N	35°C	swine	58%	#3
organic N	35°C	swine	56%	#2
TP	35°C	swine	0%	#1
K	35°C	swine	0%	#1

Table 13. Laboratory studies of Anaerobic Digestion of Animal Wastes (vessels continuously mixed)

	Feeding	Mean Residence Time	Manure Type	% Change	Temperature	Reference
TKN	batch		dairy	1% loss	not reported	#44
TKN	batch	56 days	swine	0%	15°C to 36°C	#10
TKN	continuous	64 days	swine	0%	15°C to 36°C	#10
TP	batch	56 days	swine	0%	15°C to 36°C	#10
TP	continuous	64 days	swine	17% loss	15°C to 36°C	#10
o-PO ₄	batch	56 days	swine	30% gain	15°C to 36°C	#10
o-PO ₄	continuous	64 days	swine	50% loss	15°C to 36°C	#10
COD	continuous	65 days	swine	95% loss	15°C to 36°C	#10
K	batch	56 days	swine	0%	15°C to 36°C	#10
K	continuous	64 days	swine	0%	15°C to 36°C	#10
NH ₄	batch	56 days	swine	30% gain	15°C to 36°C	#10
NH ₄	continuous	64 days	swine	30% gain	15°C to 36°C	#10
NH ₄	batch		dairy	200% gain		#44
organic N	batch		dairy	14% loss	not reported	#44

AMMONIA/AMMONIUM CHEMISTRY UNDER ANAEROBIC CONDITIONS

All of the studies, whether for lagoons, digesters, or laboratory glassware, document the conversion of organic nitrogen forms to ammonium during anaerobic digestion.

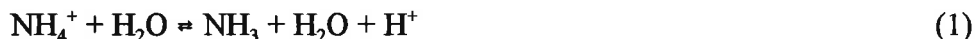
Ammonia/ammonium chemistry is one of the most important features in anaerobic digestion both from the aspect of the toxicity of ammonia (but not ammonium) to bacteria and viruses contained in the influent manures and to anaerobic digester flora, and from the aspect of ammonia (but not ammonium) as a gaseous nitrogen compound that could be removed from the effluent, if desired.

Ammonia is quite toxic to anaerobic organisms when the concentration is in the range of 2000 mg/l and can be detrimental to digester function. Waste disposal systems that capture the entire waste discharge including urine, are especially susceptible in that undiluted ammonia concentrations often exceed 3000 mg/l. #62

Basically, the amount of ammonium, NH₄⁺, present in the ionized form is controlled by pH and

temperature.

The following calculation was presented by Schmid *et al.* #62. Ammonia exists in equilibrium with ammonium ion in water



Undissociated ammonia (NH₃) is the only form that can come off as a gas, and the amount available is described by the equation

$$\text{NH}_3 = \text{NH}_4^+ \cdot \frac{10^{\text{pH}}}{\frac{k_b}{k_w} \cdot 10^{\text{pH}}} \quad (2)$$

where k_b and k_w are the ionization constants of aqueous ammonium and water, respectively. The temperature effect can be calculated from the equation

$$k_b/k_w = [-3.398 \ln(0.0241 \cdot ^\circ\text{C})] \cdot 10^9 \quad (3)$$

Solving these two equations at NH₄-N concentration of 2000 mg/l results in a free NH₃-N concentration at pH 7 and 10°C of 4.1 mg/l; at 35°C the concentration would be 34 mg/l. The NH₃-N concentration would be 292 mg/l at pH 8 and 35°C, 66 times more than at pH 7 and 10°C (Table 14).

Table 14. Undissociated Ammonia (NH₃) Concentrations in an Aqueous Solution of 2000 mg/l Ammonium Ion (NH₄⁺) at Various Temperatures and Acidities

	10°C	35°C
pH 7	4.1 mg/l NH ₃	34 mg/l NH ₃
pH 8	38 mg/l NH ₃	272 mg/l NH ₃

Thus one would not expect ammonia to be volatilized to any great extent in the pH range near 7 or less, where most anaerobic digesters operate. A heated digester can operate at near 35°C, at which temperature the fraction of dissociated ammonia available for volatilization is nearly 8.5 times greater than it would be at 10°C. So, it is possible to remove ammonia at near neutral pH.

#62 discusses how ammonia could be captured by stripping it from the gas by an acid solution, ideally phosphoric acid, in that it would be desirable to keep the nitrogen to use later as a fertilizer. The ammonia would neutralize the acid, resulting in liquid ammonium phosphate, which would be stable and storable for use as a fertilizer.

#62 estimated that the total ammonia available for stripping was 0.04 lb NH₃-N per 150 lb animal per day (18g/67.5 kg). If 50% of the ammonia could be stripped and captured, the system could

collect 14,600 lb (6570 kg) of nitrogen from a 200-head swine operation per year.

A relatively small amount of N is lost to biogas. #68 reports that biogas contains more than 1 percent ammonia and more than 4% N₂.

SLUDGE CHARACTERISTICS

Table 15 presents several measurements of sludge accumulation rates in lagoons. Fulhage #98 estimates that sludge accumulates at 0.0022 m³ per kg porcine animal per year, which is significantly less than the other estimates. This may be due to the fact that Fulhage investigated older lagoons, which had more completely digested sludge layers.

Table 15. Average Sludge Accumulation Rates in Lagoons

Animal	m ³ /animal-year	m ³ /kg TS	Reference
Poultry: Layer	0.016	0.00184	#101
Poultry: Pullet	0.009	0.00284	#101
45.4 kg Hog	0.356	0.00303	#101
454 kg lactating Cow	7.08*	0.00455	#101
Dairy Cow		0.0033	
454 kg Cow	7.53	0.00456	#50
Grower/Finisher Swine	0.340	0.00303	#50

*includes some mud from washing cows

Nordstedt and Baldwin #58 found no apparent difference in the volume of sludge buildup in dairy lagoons at 25°C and 10°C. However, since the solids reduction was two to three times greater at the higher temperature, the solids accumulated at a lower temperature had to be more concentrated.

The rate at which solids decompose in a lagoon will depend upon such environmental factors as the temperature of the lagoon, the degree of mixing that takes place, and the pH and alkalinity in the lagoon. At low temperatures, the quality of the settled solids will be quite similar to those that entered the lagoon. Little decomposition will take place. #56

Settling solids prior to discharging swine wastes to a lagoon significantly decreases phosphorus levels in the lagoon. #63 Phosphorus may be lost by the formation of phosphorus containing precipitates in anaerobic treatment or storage facilities which then settle to the bottom sludges. The precipitation of magnesium ammonium phosphate in anaerobic swine lagoons is an example of this. Losses of potassium in the supernatant of lagoons and holding ponds and high potassium contents in the bottom sludges have been observed. #52

The composition of the sludge produced by anaerobic digestion is determined by the composition and biodegradability of the raw material fed to the digester. #44 and #56 Examples of chemical analyses of lagoon sludges are found in Table 16.

Table 16. Composition of Sludges from Anaerobic Lagoons

parameter	amount	type of sludge	reference
% moisture	90%	dairy lagoon sludge	#50
% moisture	92%	swine lagoon sludge	#50
TS	10%	dairy lagoon sludge	#50
TS	6%	dairy lagoon sludge after 57 months	#58
TS	8%	swine lagoon sludge	#50
TS	20%	swine lagoon sludge	#98
COD	52188 mg/l	dairy lagoon sludge	#50
COD	64841 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#50
N	2510 mg/l	dairy lagoon sludge	#50
N	3012 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#50
N	1720-2440 mg/l	cattle lagoon sludge	#56
N	8% dry weight	sludge, laboratory batch swine waste digestion	#10
N	1.3% dry weight	sludge, laboratory continuous digestion, swine	#10
N	6.8 % dry weight	swine lagoon sludge	#78
N	4531 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#98
N	1436 - 3884 mg/l	poultry lagoon sludge	#101
N	871 - 2830 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#101
N	704 - 2546 mg/l	dairy lagoon sludge	#101
N	>3000 mg/l	dairy lagoon sludge after 57 months	#58
NH ₄ ⁺ -N	2510 mg/l	dairy lagoon sludge	#50
NH ₄ ⁺ -N	763 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#50
NH ₄ ⁺ -N	1133 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#98
NH ₄ ⁺ -N	427 - 898 mg/l	poultry lagoon sludge	#101
NH ₄ ⁺ -N	286 - 496 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#101
NH ₄ ⁺ -N	171 - 328 mg/l	dairy lagoon sludge	#101
P	1104 mg/l	dairy lagoon sludge	#50
P	2711 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#50
P	4% dry weight	sludge, laboratory batch swine waste digestion	#10
P	1% dry weight	sludge, laboratory continuous digestion, swine	#10
P	2.5% dry weight	swine lagoon sludge	#78
P	3723 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#98
P	879 - 5525 mg/l	poultry lagoon sludge	#101
P	524 - 2493 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#101
P	162 - 1143 mg/l	dairy lagoon sludge	#101
K	1506 mg/l	dairy lagoon sludge	#50
K	7628 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#50
K	<1% dry weight	sludge, laboratory batch swine waste digestion	#10
K	<1% dry weight	sludge, laboratory continuous digestion, swine	#10
K	1.2% dry weight	swine lagoon sludge	#78
K	1773 mg/l	swine lagoon sludge	#98

The salts in swine waste are removed in an anaerobic lagoon by chelation-settling or precipitation. Losses of various cations can range from less than 10% to over 90%. A substantial fraction of influent heavy metals remain in the sludge. #57 (Table 17)

Table 17. Approximate Sludge Content as a Percentage of Total Lagoon Contents, Various Chemical Species from Anaerobic Swine Lagoons.

	Reference #57	Reference #98
K	25%	25%
Na	25%	
Ca	80%	63%
Mg	40%	64%
Cu	97%	75%
Zn	90%	86%
Mn	85%	
Cl	25%	
P	65%	80%
TKN	25%	41%
VS		77%
TS		82%

The sludge layer in an anaerobic lagoon has two components, a layer of dense refractory material covered by a wispy watery biologically active layer. #99 and #58 Smith #99 describes these as the sludge bed and the sludge blanket, respectively. This phenomenon is documented in Table 18.

Table 18. Total Solids Concentration Variation With Depth From Swine Lagoon Bottom #99

Depth from Bottom, meters	TS, mg/l	VS, %TS
3.3 (surface of lagoon)	1294	36
3.0	1309	36
2.7	1281	36
2.4	1228	36
2.1	1393	36
1.8	1275	36
1.5	21900	51
1.2	42300	65
0.9	47390	66
0.6	50800	66
0.3	55600	66
0	250000	

(After 5 years operation average sludge depth: 1.5 m; average TS concentration: 150,000 mg/l)

ANAEROBIC DIGESTION: EFFECT ON PATHOGENIC ORGANISMS

BACTERIA

The pathogenic bacteria found in animal excreta can be a health hazard to livestock exposed via unclean living conditions or by contamination of feed or pasture. A few of the most important livestock bacterial pathogens and the diseases they cause are listed below.

Table 19. Some Important Bacterial Agents of Disease in Animals

Bacterium	Diseases
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	mastitis in dairy cows and joint disease in poultry
<i>Mycobacterium avium</i>	tuberculosis in swine and poultry
<i>Brucella suis</i>	brucellosis or Traum's disease resulting in abortion in swine
<i>Salmonella</i> species	abortion in mares and sheep and other disease in poultry and swine
<i>Erysipelothrix rhusiopathia</i>	erysipelas in swine
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	a major cause of death in newborn animals
<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>	tuberculosis in cattle and other animals
<i>Brucella abortis</i>	brucellosis or Bang's disease resulting in abortion in cows
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	anthrax in cattle, sheep and other animals
<i>Clostridium</i> species	blackleg in cattle and other animals, overeating disease in lambs
<i>Salmonella gallinarum</i>	bacillary white diarrhea of chickens

Any disposal of human or animal wastes to land entails some potential risk of introducing disease agents (viruses, bacteria, and parasites) into the food chain via plants or animals, or the water supply. #5 Animals are the chief reservoir of most enteric bacteria that are pathogenic to humans.

The inactivation of pathogenic microorganisms in animal manures subjected to anaerobic digestion may be a valuable collateral benefits to the methane production, since anaerobic digestion of animal manures has been shown to cause a temperature/time related reduction of vegetative pathogenic bacteria (#6 and #43).

The section compiles results of studies of the effects of anaerobic digestion on bacterial die-off in animal slurries.

When the elimination of an organism from a medium under defined condition follows an exponential curve over time, it is appropriate to describe the die-off rate as either k , the decay constant or as D_{90} , the decimal reduction time or decimation constant. D_{90} represents the time necessary for a 90% reduction of the original population. Its use assumes the exponential death rate that does not vary over an extended period of time. The decimal reduction time is not to be confused with the time needed to clear the inoculum of organisms, which could be considerably longer. For example, in the case of an inoculum containing 10^8 organisms per milliliter, treatment lasting for a single D_{90} would decrease the population only to 10^7 organisms per milliliter. It

would take ten times the decimation time to totally clear the culture.

Because it is so commonly reported in studies involving anaerobic digestion of animal slurries (#38) and because it allows quick mental calculations of the effectiveness of treatment², this report will focus on the D_{90} statistic to describe microbial death rates.

Since initial densities of individual bacterial species in livestock slurries can be in the 10^8 organisms per milliliter range or higher, one sees that it would take more than one D_{90} (in this case 10 D_{90} 's) to theoretically eliminate the organism entirely. Complete elimination of pathogens is not usually the goal of treatment. The amount of treatment required depends on the type of pathogen present, the expected exposure of the animals to the effluent, and the susceptibility of the animals to the pathogen³.

Not all authors have observed the typical exponential die-off curve in their long term studies of the effects of anaerobic digestion of animal waste slurries on bacteria. Some authors (#15, #34) have disputed the assumption of an exponential die-off distribution after the first or second \log_{10} reduction, citing the selection for and emergence of resistant organisms, which die at slower rates. Populations of microorganisms can contain a mixture of susceptible and resistant members. The susceptible members succumb first, leaving a residual population with a new death rate. Therefore, in cases of extremely pathogenic organisms, calculations based on D_{90} 's should incorporate a safety factor.

Another caveat of which to be aware is the difference between batch and continuous digester operation. In batch processes the influent is treated as a unit. In mixed or continuous-feed digesters, the influent is mixed with the partially digested material currently in the digester. The effluent is removed simultaneously with the addition of influent, and therefore, in well mixed digesters, the treated effluent contains a fraction of undigested influent. For example, a completely mixed operation with a mean residence time of 20 days means that one-twentieth of the volume in the reactor is removed each day, that one-twentieth of this newly added volume leaves the reactor by the following day. Unless conditions in the digester are extremely lethal, this inherent one-in-four-hundred short circuiting may pass a significant amount of infectious pathogen when compared to what would have survived 20 days' residence. Prolonged subsequent holding (secondary digestion or lagooning) is one solution to this problem. #45 Another solution is to run a thermophilic biogas plant semi-continuously, with an appropriate interval between input and withdrawing of slurry, to ensure the destruction of serious pathogens. #66

²To calculate the time necessary for a 99% reduction, simply multiply the D_{90} by two. For a 99.9% reduction, multiply the D_{90} by three, etc.

³For instance, Calves are susceptible to salmonellosis when exposed to an inoculum of 10^5 to 10^{11} cfu ml⁻¹, but adult cattle are infected when exposed to inocula of 10^{11} cfu ml⁻¹ or greater.
#34

One further caution, the degrees and rates of inactivation of bacteria in lab experiments tend to be greater than in full scale digesters, because the latter seldom are operated under conditions ideal for inactivation or because indigenous salmonellas are more resistant #60.

Compilation of Bacterial Die-Off Study Results

Total and fecal coliforms, though not necessarily pathogenic, were studied because of their widespread use as indicators of water pollution. It is interesting to note that the mixed populations of coliforms appear to be somewhat more resistant to inactivation by anaerobic digestion than their representative species, *Escherichia coli*. (Tables 20, 21, 22)

Table 20. Total Coliforms Decimal Reduction Times under Anaerobic Digestion with Livestock Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
6 - 9°C	31.5 - 126 days	mean 65 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38
6 - 9°C	56.7 days	non-aerated dairy and swine slurry	#20
6 - 15°C	65 days	slurry	#108
18 - 20°C	10.5 - 38.5 days	mean 15 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38
18 - 21°C	15 days	slurry	#108
20°C	14.7 days	non-aerated dairy and swine slurry	#20
MESOPHILIC			
23 - 28°C	5.1 days	anaerobic swine lagoon	#71
35°C	3.1 days	indigenous total coliforms	#6

Table 21. Fecal Coliforms Decimal Reduction Times under Anaerobic Digestion of Livestock Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
6 - 9°C	24.5 - 120 days	mean of 62 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38
18 - 20°C	10.5 - 31.5 days	mean of 14 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38

Table 22. *Escherichia coli* Decimal Reduction Times under Anaerobic Digestion of Livestock Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
4°C	>29 days*	<i>E. coli</i> K12 strA, in cattle slurry	#34
6 - 9°C	11.9 days	<i>E. coli</i> serovar 078, cattle and pig slurry	#28
6 - 9°C	12 days	<i>E. coli</i> serovar 08 in cattle and pig slurry	#38
6 - 9°C	61.6 - 65.1 days		#28
6 - 9°C	33.6 days	<i>E. coli</i> serovar 08	#28
6 - 15°C	56 days		#108
10°C	5 days	rabbit waste slurry	#23
17°C	>29 days*	<i>E. coli</i> K12 strA, in cattle slurry	#34
18 - 20°C	11.2 days	<i>E. coli</i> serovar 078, cattle and pig slurry	#28
18 - 20°C	6.3 days	<i>E. coli</i> serovar 08 in cattle and pig slurry	#38
18 - 20°C	14 - 14.7 days		#28
20°C	3.3 days	rabbit waste slurry	#23
MESOPHILIC			
33°C	1 day		#41
33 - 35°C	2.2 - 5.5 days	total <i>E. coli</i> in cattle and pig slurry	#43
33 - 35°C	1 - 2 days	pathogenic <i>E. coli</i> , cattle and pig slurry	#43
35°C	1.8 days		#79
35°C	1.2 days	<i>E. coli</i> K-12 10083 strA in beef slurry	#5
35°C	0.8 day	batch incubation <i>E. coli</i> K12 strA	#34
35°C	1.5 days	semicontinuous feed, <i>E. coli</i> K12 strA	#34
37°C	1.4 days	rabbit waste slurry	#23
THERMOPHILIC			
50°C	5 - 6 hours		#41
53°C	0.4 hour		#79
53°C	0.5 - 1 hour		#41
50 - 59°C	0.2 - 1.5 hours	pathogenic <i>E. coli</i> , cattle and pig slurry	#43

*longer than the duration of the experiment

Another widely used indicator species is fecal *Streptococcus*. (Table 23)

Table 23. Fecal Streptococci Decimal Reduction Times under Anaerobic Digestion in Livestock Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
6 - 9°C	84 - 280 days	mean 150 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38
6 - 9°C	149.8 days	dairy and swine slurry, anaerobic storage	#20
18 - 20°C	28 - 49 days	mean 40 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38
20°C	39.9 days	dairy and swine slurry, anaerobic storage	#20
MESOPHILIC			
33 - 35°C	7 - 8 days	cattle and pig slurry	#43
35°C	2 days		#79
THERMOPHILIC			
53°C	1 hour		#79
50 - 59°C	2 - 3.5 hours	cattle and pig slurry	#43

Salmonellosis is regarded as the most important disease spread by slurry. Carriers can contaminate pastures and water supplies, and consequently cause infection in other animals.#34

Although salmonellas may survive for up to 150 days in stored anaerobic cattle slurry, 90% die during the first two to four weeks of storage. Survival is greatest at temperatures below 10°C and in slurries containing more than 5% solids.#21

Tables 24 and 25 present D₉₀ times for this genus.

Table 24. *Salmonella typhimurium* Decimation Times under Anaerobic Digestion of Livestock Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
4°C	21.3 days	strain 0035, lab test, beef slurry	#34
7°C	39.8 days		#28
5 - 10°C	21 days		#81
5 - 10°C	13 - 25 days		#80
6 - 9°C	41.3 days	non-aerated dairy and swine slurry	#20
6 - 9°C	21 - 56 days	mean of 41 days	#38
6 - 9°C	41.3 days		#28
17°C	17.5 days	strain 0035, lab test, beef slurry	#34
18 - 20°C	14 days		#28
18 - 20°C	7 - 21 days	mean of 14 days	#38
20°C	14 days	non-aerated dairy and swine slurry	#20
20°C	14.4 days		#28
23 - 28°C	5.3 days	swine slurry	#71
MESOPHILIC			
33°C	2 - 3 days		#41
33 - 35°C	2 - 4 days		#43
35°C	0.9 days	strain 0035, batch lab experiment	#34
35°C	1.1 days	strain 0035 semi-continuous lab test	#34
35°C	2.4 days		#6
35°C	1.1 days		#15
THERMOPHILIC			
50°C	0.7 - 0.8 hour		#41
53°C	0.7 hour		#79
53°C	0.5 - 1 hour		#41
50 - 59°C	0.2 - 1.5 hour		#43

Table 25. Other Salmonella species Decimal Reduction Times under Anaerobic Digestion in Livestock Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
5 - 10°C	10 - 72 days	<i>S. dublin</i>	#80
7°C	33.6 days	<i>S. dublin</i>	#28
7°C	30.8 days	<i>S. derby</i>	#28
10°C	2.5 days	<i>S. typhi</i> , rabbit waste slurry	#23
20°C	2.1 days	<i>S. typhi</i> , rabbit waste slurry	#23
23 - 28°C	5.1 - 6.6 days	<i>S. choleraesuis</i>	#71
MESOPHILIC			
35°C	0.7 days	<i>S. duesseldorf</i>	#60
35°C	2.1 days	<i>S. dublin</i>	#79
37°C	1.5 days	<i>S. typhi</i> , rabbit waste slurry	#23
THERMOPHILIC			
48°C	20 minutes	<i>S. duesseldorf</i>	#60
53°C	36 minutes	<i>S. dublin</i>	#79
55°C	5 minutes	<i>S. typhi</i>	#42
55°C	5 minutes	<i>S. paratyphi</i>	#42
55°C	5.5 minutes	<i>S. enteritidis</i>	#42
57°C	31 minutes	<i>S. senftenberg</i> 775W*	#42

*the most heat tolerant salmonella strain known

Mycobacterium paratuberculosis exhibits an extraordinarily high resistance to various environmental conditions. In anaerobically-stored cattle slurry it survives 98 days at 15°C and 252 days at 5°C. #66 Table 26 concerns this species.

Table 26. *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* Decimation Times under Anaerobic Digestion of Livestock Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
5°C		complete die off after 252 days	#66
6 - 9°C	63 days		#28
6 - 9°C		> 4 months in dairy and swine slurry	#20
15°C		complete die off after 98 days	#66
18 - 20°C	42 days		#28
MESOPHILIC			
35°C	6 days		#38
35°C	5 - 6.5 days		#66
THERMOPHILIC			
53°C	0.7 hour		#38
53°C	0.5 hour		#66

Two other vegetative bacterial species are covered in Tables 27 and 28.

Table 27. *Yersinia enterocolitica* Decimal Reduction Times under Anaerobic Digestion of Livestock Manures

Temperature	D90	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
4°C	20.8 days	beef slurry, lab study	#34
7°C	10.1 days		#28
6 - 9°C	11.2 days	dairy and swine slurry, anaerobic storage	#20
6 - 9°C	7 -17.5 days	mean 11 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38
17°C	12.8 days	beef slurry, lab study	#34
18 - 20°C	4.2 days		#28
18 - 20°C	3.5 - 7 days	mean 4 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38
20°C	4.2 days	dairy and swine slurry, anaerobic storage	#20
MESOPHILIC			
35°C	0.9 days	semicontinuous lab digestion, beef slurry	#15
35°C	0.7 days	batch incubation, beef slurry	#34
35°C	2.5 days	lab semicontinuous incubation, beef slurry	#34

Table 28. *Staphylococcus aureus* Decimal Reduction Times under Anaerobic Digestion with Livestock Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
5 - 10°C	6 - 18 days		#80
6 - 9°C	10.5 - 120 days	mean of 50 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38
6 - 9°C	49.7 days	non-aerated dairy and swine slurry	#28
10°C	6.4 days	rabbit waste slurry	#23
18 - 20°C	3.5 - 21 days	mean of 6 days, cattle and pig slurry	#38
18 - 21°C	6.3 days		#108
20°C	5.3 days	rabbit waste slurry	#23
20°C	6.3 days	non-aerated dairy and swine slurry	#20
MESOPHILIC			
33 - 35°C	0.5 - 1 day		#80
35°C	0.9 day		#79
37°C	4.7 day	rabbit waste slurry	#23
THERMOPHILIC			
53°C	0.5 hour		#79
50 - 59°C	0.4 - 1.5 hour	cattle and pig slurry	#43

Clostridia are anaerobic spore forming bacteria. (Table 29). They are unaffected by anaerobic digestion even at 53°C.

Table 29. *Clostridium perfringens* Decimation Times under Anaerobic Digestion of Animal Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
6 - 9°C	no reduction	7 month experiment	#20
20°C	no reduction	7 month experiment	#20
MESOPHILIC			
35°C	no reduction	type C	#79
THERMOPHILIC			
53°C	no reduction	type C	#79

Table 30. Miscellaneous Bacterial Decimal Reduction Times under Anaerobic Digestion of Animal Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
4°C	>84 days*	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> LM1	#34
4°C	>112 days*	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> 4451	#34
4°C	70 days	<i>Treponema hyodysenteria</i>	#20
5 - 10°C	6 - 18 days	<i>Brucella abortus</i>	#80
6 - 15°C	150 days	Group D Streptococci	#108
17°C	29.4 days	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> LM1	#34
17°C	>112 days*	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> 4451	#34
18 - 21°C	40 days	Group D Streptococci	#108
20°C	< 9 days	<i>Treponema hyodysenteria</i>	#20
MESOPHILIC			
33 - 35°C	1 - 2 days	<i>Erysipelothrix rhusiopathia</i>	#43
35°C	1.8 days	<i>Erysipelothrix rhusiopathia</i>	#79
35°C	7.1 days	Group D Streptococci	#79
35°C	0.8 days	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> LM1	#15
35°C	12.3 - 35.7 days	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	#34
35°C	3.6 days	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> 4451	#15
35°C	>71 days*	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>	#34
35°C	no reduction	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	#79
THERMOPHILIC			
53°C	1.2 hours	<i>Erysipelothrix rhusiopathia</i>	#79
53°C	no reduction	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	#79

* longer than the duration of the experiment

Discussion and Conclusions

Mesophilic or thermophilic anaerobic digestion of slurry causes a significantly accelerated inactivation of vegetative, non-spore-forming bacteria when compared with inactivation during anaerobic storage at lower temperatures (6 to 20°C). Decimal reduction times of these bacteria are of the order of hours or minutes at thermophilic temperatures, days at mesophilic temperatures and weeks or months at psychrophilic temperatures. #66, #43, #38

Spore forming bacterial species, whether anaerobic like *Clostridium*, or aerobic like *Bacillus* seem to be quite resistant to anaerobic digestion at commonly encountered digestion temperatures.

Gadre *et al.* #59 reported that there is no conclusive evidence that intestinal pathogens are totally inactivated during anaerobic digestion although the number of these pathogens is reduced considerably. Dudley *et al.* #82 showed that klebsiellas, shigellas, salmonellas, mycobacteria, staphylococci and pseudomonads survived anaerobic digestion.

Thermophilic as well as mesophilic digestion coupled with thermophilic pretreatment will result in a sufficient reduction of both vegetative pathogenic bacteria and intestinal parasites occurring in concentrations usually found in animal waste to allow for unrestricted use of the effluent in agriculture. This cannot be said for mesophilic digestion used alone. #33

Anaerobic swine lagoons with residence times of greater than 300 days would be expected to give substantial pathogen die-off and maintain strong, mixed populations of microorganisms for organic decomposition.#57

VIRUSES

Viruses shed in large amounts in feces and urine fall for the most part in the categories of the adenoviruses, the reoviruses, and the enteroviruses⁴.

The enteroviruses are of particular importance to managers of animal wastes, although the majority of cases of animals infected by enteric viruses will remain without clinical manifestations #36. Some of the diseases associated with human enteroviruses are listed below.

⁴The enteroviruses include polio virus, coxsackievirus, ECHO virus, rhinovirus and others which are unclassified. They are also sometimes called picornaviruses, *i.e.*, small RNA viruses.

Table 31. Clinical Syndromes Associated with Infections by Human Enteroviruses

Poliovirus	Muscular paralysis Aseptic meningitis Febrile episodes
Coxsackievirus A	Herpangina Acute lymphatic pharyngitis Aseptic meningitis Paralysis Exanthem (hand-foot-mouth disease) Pneumonitis of infants Common cold Hepatitis Infantile Diarrhea
Coxsackievirus B	Pleurodynia Aseptic meningitis Paralysis Meningoencephalitis and myocarditis Pericarditis and myocarditis Upper respiratory illness and pneumonia Rash or hepatitis
ECHO virus	Aseptic meningitis Paralysis Gullain-Barre's syndrome Exanthem Respiratory disease Diarrhea Epidemic myalgia Pericarditis and myocarditis Hepatitis

The majority of studies of viral inactivation by anaerobic digestion employed human enteroviruses. The results are presented alongside of studies of animal viruses with the understanding that related animal viruses may or may not have similar abilities to withstand the conditions of digestion. (Table 32)

Compilation of Viral Die-Off Studies

Table 32. Enterovirus Decimal Reduction Times Under Anaerobic Digestion of Animal Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	Comments	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
5°C	19 days	poliovirus type 1	#26
5°C	200 - 300 days	porcine enterovirus	#36
5°C	35 days	coxsackievirus B3	#36
14.4°C	29.9 days	poliovirus type 1	#47
15°C	20 days	poliovirus type 1	#26
20°C	9 days	coxsackievirus B3 at pH 6.9 to 7.8	#36
20°C	13 days	porcine enterovirus (Talfan) pH 6.9 - 7.8	#36
20.8°C	18.7 days	poliovirus type 1	#47
25°C	6.8 days	poliovirus type 1	#47
25°C	17 days	poliovirus type 1	#26
MESOPHILIC			
32°C	2.06 days	coxsackievirus B3	#85
33°C	2 days	coxsackievirus	#41
35°C	0.64 days	coxsackievirus A9	#16
35°C	0.99 days	coxsackievirus B4	#16
35°C	0.46 days	coxsackievirus B3	#85
35°C	1.67 days	ECHO virus II	#16
35°C	1.0 day	poliovirus type 1	#86
35°C	4.12 days	poliovirus type 1	#86
37°C	2.60 days	poliovirus type 1	#86
37°C	1.3 days	poliovirus type 1	#47
THERMOPHILIC			
50°C	3 hours	poliovirus type 1	#86
50°C	0.8 - 1.2 hours	coxsackievirus	#41
53°C	1 - 7 hours	coxsackievirus	#41
53°C	0.5 hour	ECHO virus	#41
55°C	1 hour	poliovirus type 1	#42
56°C	3 hours	coxsackie virus	#41
80°C	2 minutes	enterovirus	#36

Table 33. Decimal Reduction Times of Viruses Other Than the Enteroviruses Under Anaerobic Digestion in Animal Manures

Temperature	D ₉₀	pH	Virus	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC				
5°C	34.6 days	7.04	hepatitis A virus	#14
5°C	48.5 days	7.58	hepatitis A virus	#14
5°C	188 days		bovine parvovirus	#41
5°C	200 - 300 days		bovine parvovirus	#36
10.1°C	22.2 days		f2 coliphage	#7
10 - 20°C	34.7 days	6.9	f2 coliphage	#7
10 - 20°C	78.1 days	6.9	bovine encephalomyocarditis virus	#7
10 - 20°C	197 days	6.9	bovine rotavirus	#7
10 - 20°C	38 days	6.9	bovine parvovirus	#7
10 - 20°C	22.9 days	6.9	bovine adenovirus	#7
10 - 20°C	< 2.5 days	6.9	bovine herpes virus	#7
10 - 20°C	23 days	7.4	f2 coliphage	#7
10 - 20°C	28.9	7.4	bovine encephalomyocarditis virus	#7
10 - 20°C	104 days	7.4	bovine rotavirus	#7
10 - 20°C	29 days	7.4	bovine parvovirus	#7
10 - 20°C	37.3 days	7.4	bovine adenovirus	#7
10 - 20°C	< 2.5 days	7.4	bovine herpes virus	#7
10 - 20°C	27.3 days	7.9	f2 coliphage	#7
10 - 20°C	44.6 days	7.9	bovine encephalomyocarditis virus	#7
10 - 20°C	61.8 days	7.9	bovine rotavirus	#7
10 - 20°C	24.5 days	7.9	bovine parvovirus	#7
10 - 20°C	34.9 days	7.9	bovine adenovirus	#7
10 - 20°C	< 2.5 days	7.9	bovine herpes virus	#7
10 - 20°C	9.4 days	8.7	f2 coliphage	#7
10 - 20°C	8.2 days	8.7	bovine encephalomyocarditis virus	#7
10 - 20°C	27.5 days	8.7	bovine rotavirus	#7
10 - 20°C	20.3 days	8.7	bovine parvovirus	#7
10 - 20°C	8.4 days	8.7	bovine adenovirus	#7
10 - 20°C	< 2.5 days	8.7	bovine herpes virus	#7
19.2°C	7.1 days		f2 coliphage	#7
20°C	20 days		bovine parvovirus	#41
22°C	17.1 days	7.0	hepatitis A virus	#14
22°C	23 days	7.6	hepatitis A virus	#14
MESOPHILIC				
35°C	0.86 day		coliphage MS2	#16
THERMOPHILIC				
80°C	16 minutes		parvovirus	#36

At the pH value of raw pig manure most of the ammonia is in the charged state, which is non-toxic. #4 Table 34 shows the different end pH values of effluents from the anaerobic storage of various mixtures of livestock urine, feces and bedding, demonstrating the dependence of the stored waste acidity on the composition of the waste stream feeding it. The results of this study underline the importance of both virus type and pH as determinants of viral survival during anaerobic storage of livestock waste at ambient temperatures. #7

Table 34. D_{90} in days of anaerobic storage at 10°C to 20°C #7

Waste Type	pH	f2 coli-phage	bovine encephalomyocarditis virus	bovine rotavirus	bovine parvovirus	bovine adenovirus	bovine herpes virus
cattle feces and urine, cleaning water, and substantial amounts of bedding material	6.9	34.7	78.1	197	38	22.9	<2.5
swine feces and urine, cleaning water, and substantial amounts of bedding material	7.4	23	28.9	104	29.3	37.3	<2.5
mixture of all three types of cattle and swine wastes	7.9	27.3	44.6	61.8	24.5	34.9	<2.5
cattle urine, cleaning water, and minor amounts of bedding material	8.7	9.4	8.2	27.5	20.3	8.4	<2.5

Though not as precise as decimal reduction times, times for total inactivation were reported by #109 for a range of temperatures. (Table 35). These results illustrate the wide variability in temperature sensitivity of livestock viruses and serve as a caution against over-confidence in the abilities of mesophilic and thermophilic digestion to produce a pathogen free effluent.

Table 35. Inactivation Times* for Animal Viruses in Slurry at Various Storage and Digestion Temperatures #109

Disease and Storage Medium	5°C	20°C	35°C	40°C	45°C	50°C	55°C
Swine influenza, pig slurry	9 wks	2 wks					1 hr
Porcine parvovirus, pig slurry	>10 mo	>10 mo	21 wks	9 wks		5 da	8 da
Bovine virus diarrhoea, cattle sl.	3 wks	3 da	3 hr	50 min	20 min	5 min	5 min
Bovine rhinotracheitis, cattle sl.	> 1 mo	2 da	1 da	3 hr	90 min	40 min	10 min
Aujeszky's disease, pig slurry	15 wks	14 da	5 hr	2 hr	45 min	20 min	10 min
Foot & mouth disease, cattle sl	>14 wks	2 wks	1 da	10 hr	5 hr	1 hr	1 hr
Foot & mouth disease, pig slurry		5 wks					
Swine fever, pig slurry	> 6 wks	2 wks	4 hr				
TGE in pigs, pig slurry	> 2 mo	2 wks	1 da		2.5 hr	1 hr	30 min

* > indicates that time of complete inactivation was not reached at conclusion of test

Viral Recovery on Separated Solids

Derbyshire *et al.* #25 examined viral survival in the various liquids and solids associated with a mesophilic MRS digester. The study unit was a 375 sow farrow to finish operation with slatted floors from which manure was collected into a holding pit with a submersible mixer. The raw liquid manure was pumped daily into a 6.6 m diameter by 6.2 m high cylindrical, insulated, digestion tank. The contents of the tank were continuously mixed and maintained at 35°C. Digester effluent was withdrawn continuously for 8 to 16 hours each day. The effluent was pumped through a vibrating screen separator, and the screened digester solids were used as soil conditioner. Anaerobic digestion residue was removed from the screened digester effluent by a 30 centimeter long solid bowl centrifuge, stored as a high-moisture cake and blended with other ingredients for refeeding to fattening pigs. The watery centrifuge centrate remaining after recovery of the digestion residue was pumped into a storage tank and subsequently distributed onto farm land.

Viral recovery measurements taken during various steps in this process are found in Table 36.

Table 36. Isolation of Porcine Enterovirus from an Anaerobic Digestion System for Liquid Pig Manure #25

	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Raw manure			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	7
Digester effluent	+	+	+	+	+					5
Screened digester solids	+								+	2
Screened digester effluent		+	+	+	+					4
Anaerobic digestion residue			+							1
Centrifuge centrate		+				+	+			3
Storage tank liquid		+								1

Table 36 shows that enteroviruses were isolated more often from the raw liquid manure than any of the processed materials. These findings suggest significant reductions in viral infectivity, as a result of the anaerobic digestion and subsequent processing, for those materials which are utilized for distribution on the land or for refeeding to livestock, especially the solids.

Discussion and Conclusions

Virus inactivation in animal wastes stored under nonaerated conditions is a complex event. It is ultimately controlled by the inherent stability of the different viruses, by their association with suspended solids, by ambient temperature, and pH, by volatile and dissolved microbial metabolites, and possibly by added detergents⁵ and disinfectants. #7

High temperature (above 33°C) #24, #86, ammonia concentration, and virus type are the three major factors responsible for microbial inactivation in anaerobic digesters. #17, #18

⁵While ionic detergents accelerate inactivation of certain enteric viruses (Reoviridae), they protect others. Poliovirus and other enteroviruses were shown to be inactivated much more slowly in the presence of ionic detergents.#17

Psychrophilic Temperature

Temperature has been well established as a primary influence in determining rates of virus inactivation. In general viruses survive longer at low temperatures and are inactivated by heat. #14

Anaerobic storage of slurries at ambient temperatures result in D_{90} values in the range of weeks or months (#38). Temperatures of 32°C or below do not destroy viruses rapidly. #72

EC guidelines recommend that manures to be spread on grazing land should be stored 60 days during the summer and 90 days during the winter before application. This review shows that these times are not sufficient for some viruses, especially the non-enveloped viruses such as rotaviruses, enteroviruses, and adenoviruses, as well as the thermoresistant parvoviruses.#7

Mesophilic and Thermophilic Temperature

As with bacteria, viral decimal reduction times for mesophilic anaerobic digestion fall in the range of days and for thermophilic temperatures in the range of hours or minutes.

Mesophilic digestion does not usually produce complete viral inactivation. #18 Enteroviruses and reoviruses are often detected in sludge from mesophilic (30 to 35°C) anaerobic digesters with retention times from 20 to 40 days. #72 Some viruses can even withstand 50 days at thermophilic 50°C in sludge. #89 #72 It has been concluded that, despite the best efforts at sludge digestion, total elimination of viruses from the sludges is probably not possible and low levels of viruses will probably be introduced into soil systems via land application. #88

The rates of virus inactivation at 30 to 35°C range between 50 and 99% per day #24, #16, #85 The rates of viral inactivation during anaerobic digestion can increase to 99.99999% per day when the digestion is performed at 50°C #86. The inactivation rate of enteroviruses can be expected to be 2 minutes per log unit at 80°C, and for many strains, considerably less, whereas, for parvovirus it may be 16 minutes per log unit of virus at 80°C, a very slow rate of inactivation.#36

Virus Type

Inactivation times depend strongly on the type of virus. #7, #14, #36 The influence of temperature is greater on enteroviruses than on parvovirus. Different kinds of viruses, even different strains of the same virus, have different temperature-dependence, the parvoviruses being the most resistant at higher temperatures. Adenoviruses are more sensitive than enteroviruses. #29

Ammonia and pH

Enteric viruses are generally most stable near pH 7 but are more stable at low pHs (3 to 5) than at alkaline pHs (9 to 12).#14 #17 The sensitivity to high pHs is due almost exclusively to the presence of uncharged ammonia. (Increases in pH causes ammonium ions to be partially converted into aqueous ammonia, which inactivates poliovirus and other enterovirus.)

The microbe-inactivating capabilities of ammonia are greater at pH values >8, when the ammonia is in the uncharged state.#24 #65 For example, at pH 7, more than 99% of ammonia in NH_4Cl is in the charged state; this value decreases to 95% at pH 8, 59% at pH 9, and 13% at pH 10. The ammonium ion has no detectable virucidal activity against poliovirus, but the uncharged form of ammonia is extremely active. The rate of enterovirus inactivation in digester supernatant has been shown to increase with increasing concentrations of ammonia. This relationship is linear and holds true for ammonia concentrations of up to 1500 mg/l. #87

Ward and Ashley #65 tested three strains of poliovirus, two strains of coxsackievirus, and one strain each of ECHO virus 11 and reovirus 3. Of these only one, the reovirus was relatively somewhat more resistant to inactivation by NH_3 . All have single stranded RNA, except for the reovirus, which has double-stranded RNA.

Field Scale vs Lab Scale Studies

Laboratory results predicting the fate of viruses during experimental sludge treatments have not always been consistent with observations of full scale digesters. The mixing patterns of sludge in large digesters seem not to be completely predictable and probably contribute to the variable results. #18

Furthermore, there seems to be a difference in the sensitivity of indigenous viruses and experimentally seeded laboratory strains. Berg and Berman #32 observed that mesophilic digestion reduced the numbers of viruses indigenous to raw sludges by about 90% in 20 days, but laboratory strains of viruses seeded into sludges usually have been reduced in numbers by about 90% in 1 to 4 days. Thus data gathered with laboratory strains of seeded viruses appear to overestimate considerably the rate at which viruses indigenous to raw sludges are inactivated by mesophilic digestion.

PROTOZOA AND METAZOA ("PARASITES")

In medical usage, the term "parasite" encompasses eukaryotic single and multicellular pathogens, primarily protozoa and helminths (worms). Some pathogenic parasites have stages in their life cycle which are adapted to survival outside of the host and are resistant to extreme environmental conditions. This adds to the concern of transmitting parasites through the disposal of wastes to land. Numerous species of protozoan and metazoan parasites are transmitted through feces (#84).

Table 37. Common Pathogenic Protozoa and Helminths Found in Animal Wastes #90

Cattle Slurry	Pig slurry	Poultry waste
PROTOZOA	PROTOZOA	PROTOZOA
<i>Eimeria</i> oocysts	<i>Eimeria</i>	<i>Eimeria</i>
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> sp.	<i>Balantidium</i>	<i>Histomonas</i>
<i>Giardia</i> sp.		
HELMINTHS	HELMINTHS	HELMINTHS
<i>Fasciola hepatica</i>	<i>Ascaris</i>	<i>Ascaridia</i>
<i>Strongyloides papillosus</i>	<i>Oesophagostomum</i>	<i>Heterakis</i>
<i>Oesophagostomum</i> sp.	<i>Strongyloides</i>	<i>Capillaria</i>
<i>Dictyocaulus viviparus</i>	<i>Hyostrogylus</i>	
<i>Trichuris</i> sp.	<i>Trichuris</i>	
<i>Dictyocaulus viviparus</i>	<i>Fasciola</i>	
<i>Dicrocoelium dendriticum</i>		
<i>Moniezia</i> sp.		
<i>Toxocara vitulorum</i>		
<i>Trichostrongyle</i> sp.		

Parasites are an important cause of morbidity and mortality in domestic animals and of considerable economic importance to the farming industry. Helminths are generally the most significant in terms of pathogenicity, but there are a number of protozoa which are of both veterinary and public health importance. #106

Of the parasitic protozoa, coccidian parasites can be a significant cause of disease and death in young cattle, sheep and poultry raised under intensive conditions. These animals may be infected with many different species of coccidia of varying pathogenicity. The majority belong to the genus *Eimeria*, which are characteristically highly host-specific. For example, sheep eimerian species do not infect goats. Protozoan parasites also exist which show little host specificity and which may be capable of producing widespread environmental contamination because of the potentially large host population. Contamination may possibly be increased by the spread of sewage, slurry or manure on land. #106

Protozoa

In the United States, *Giardia* is the most commonly recognized cause of waterborne disease in humans although *Cryptosporidium* is the cause of the largest outbreaks.#104⁶

Factors such as heavy rainfall leading to agricultural washoff, high turbidity in raw water, and problems with water treatment and distribution, are typical risk factors leading to waterborne epidemics of protozoan diseases. #104 Due to episodic surges in protozoan water contamination and the limitations of standard water treatment processes, water producers are currently not able to guarantee freedom from risk of parasites in all supplies at all times.

Apart from the potential zoonotic reservoir of *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidia* in livestock, high levels of infection in young animals can be clinically significant and any resultant effect on weight gain will inflict an important economic loss to agriculture. #12

Reduction in the level of environmental contamination by these protozoans through waste treatment would lessen the likelihood of both animal and human exposure.

Cryptosporidium

Parasites of the coccidial genus *Cryptosporidium* are small intracellular parasites which have been reported in more than 40 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and fish. Infection in man and domestic livestock, particularly calves, is usually associated with *Cryptosporidium parvum*. Cryptosporidiosis is predominantly found in young calves, less than 3 weeks old. Disease associated with *Cryptosporidium parvum* has also been reported in neonates of sheep, goats, and deer, and in non-domestic ruminants including antelope and oryx. Pigs, goats, and horses can also be infected. Most porcine cryptosporidial infections are asymptomatic with the majority of infections occurring in 6 to 12 week old pigs. #106 Other hosts include chickens, turkeys, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, beavers, muskrats, and squirrels. #94, #9 There are a few reports of

⁶In the spring of 1993, the largest documented waterborne disease outbreak in U. S. history occurred in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. An estimated 403,000 people developed watery diarrhoea after drinking municipal water contaminated with *Cryptosporidium parvum*. The water intakes of the treatment plants involved were on Lake Michigan. The source of oocysts in the lake remain speculative. The outbreak appears to have been an unfortunate confluence of several events. Heavy rainfall during early spring likely resulted in higher than usual levels of organic material, including cow manure that had been spread on fields within the watershed, being washed into streams that flow into Milwaukee's rivers. Other possible sources of oocysts include a slaughterhouse and meat packing plant in central Milwaukee and the sewage treatment plant, which is located at the confluence of Milwaukee's three rivers as they flow into Lake Michigan. #105

Cryptosporidium infections in companion animals. Dogs, cats and other pets are occasionally infected but they do not seem to be an important source of infection to other hosts. The avian cryptosporidia appear to have a high host specificity for birds. The *Cryptosporidium* infection rates of some important groups of domestic livestock are found in Table 38.

In man, person-to-person transmission is now recognized to be common, indicating that cryptosporidiosis is not always a zoonosis. Zoonotic transmission has been reported from calves and lambs to humans. #106

Table 38. Rates of Infection of Domestic Livestock with *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*

	<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	<i>Giardia</i>	Reference
US calves without diarrhea*	11%	46%	#9
US calves (with and without diarrhea)	31%	73%	#9
Canadian sheep		18%	#12
Canadian lambs		36%	#12
Canadian cattle		10%	#12
Canadian calves		28%	#12

*The epidemiological significance of this group is that a proportion of healthy as well as sick calves shed these pathogens.

#11 *Cryptosporidium* was first conclusively recognized as an agent of human waterborne disease in 1987. Like *Giardia*, cryptosporidia form environmentally resistant oocysts. Though reduced by chlorination and ozonation, current treatment practices do little to inactivate waterborne *Cryptosporidium*.

Cryptosporidium oocysts are resistant to most disinfectants used in hospitals and laboratories and can survive for months if kept cool and moist. #95

No effective specific treatment for cryptosporidiosis has been found. Prevention in animals is primarily aimed at limiting exposure. In animals the primary route of infection is likely to be the direct animal-to-animal fecal-oral route. Heavy infections can lead to high levels of environmental contamination which influences the rate of infection in susceptible hosts. #106

Giardia

Giardia lamblia are flagellated protozoans which cause diarrhea among humans, dogs, cats, calves, and horses. #9 *Giardia* was first documented in 1966 as causative agents of human waterborne intestinal disease in the United States. Since that time, numerous outbreaks of giardiasis have occurred throughout the United States. During the period of 1971-1985, ninety two waterborne outbreaks were attributed to *Giardia* affecting over 24,000 individuals #11 and Table 2. *Giardia* is currently the predominant cause of waterborne illness, accounting for more than 50% of the identified cases.

Giardia have been isolated from a variety of mammalian, avian, reptilian, amphibian, and fish hosts. *Giardia* has been reported in cattle, sheep, goats, horses, dogs, cats, rodents, and psittacines (parrot family). #106

#106 There are three structural types of *Giardia*. The species affecting man and the majority of domestic animals is *Giardia lamblia* (also called *G. intestinalis* or *G. duodenalis*). The other morphologically different species are *Giardia muris* identified in rodents, birds, and reptiles and *Giardia agilis* from amphibians.

Giardia lamblia exists in two morphologically distinct forms, the trophozoite and the cyst. The infective cyst form is transmitted via the fecal-oral route. #5

Giardia infections in many species of animals are often asymptomatic. The host specificity of *Giardia* is still undecided, and as such the zoonotic potential of animal infection is the subject of much research. #106

Limited epidemiological studies suggest that direct animal-to-animal transmission is the most likely method of transmission, although water contamination can also be considered as a possible route. Human infection in the USA has been reported from drinking water contaminated with *Giardia* thought to have been shed by beavers #91 (or, as #104 observed, the giardiasis cases could have resulted from beavers transmitting infection which the beavers previously had acquired from water polluted by man.) Other animals may act as reservoirs of infection. The role of farm animals in the overall epidemiology of human giardiasis has yet to be investigated, though there is circumstantial evidence implicating them. #106

Studies in Canada indicate infections in sheep and cattle of 18% and 10% respectively (Table 38). Animal young are infected at somewhat higher rates. A more recent study in the UK indicated that nearly 70% of a flock of lambs to be infected with *Giardia* although the presence of the organism was not necessarily associated with clinical signs of disease. #106

Helminths

The two parasitic helminth phyla of most veterinary concern are Platyhelminthes (flat worms), especially classes Trematoda (flukes) and Cestoidea (tapeworms) and phylum Nematelminthes (round worms or thread worms), especially of the class Nematoda.

Highly specific parasites such as the nodular worms of pig (*Oesophagostomum* sp.) will cause trouble in only the host species. Parasites with a wide range of hosts like the liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*) are a hazard to a variety of hosts. #90

While aquatic systems can be the vehicle for transmitting helminthal pathogens to humans,

modern water treatment methods are very effective in destroying these organisms. Thus, helminths pose hazards primarily to those persons who come into direct contact with untreated water. Sewage plant operators, swimmers, and farm laborers are at particular risk. #91

Helminth survival in cattle slurry varies between different species. Long survival under certain conditions enables some parasitic agents to accumulate in the environment of the excreters.#90

Compilation of Parasite Die-Off Studies

Table 39. Decimal Reduction Times for Protozoans and Helminths Stored Anaerobically in Animal Waste

Temperature	D ₉₀	Organism	Reference
PSYCHROPHILIC			
4°C	>40 days	<i>Cooperia oncophora</i> eggs	#22
4°C	28 days	<i>Dictyocaulus viviparus</i> larvae	#22
5°C	130 days	<i>Giardia</i> cysts	#5
8°C	4 days	<i>Strongyloides papillosus</i> 1st to 3rd stage larvae	#90
8°C	64 days	<i>Trichostrongylus colubriformis</i> egg	#90
8°C	76 days	<i>Trichostrongylus colubriformis</i> 3rd stage larvae	#90
8°C	>76 days	<i>Taenia pisiformis</i> eggs	#90
8°C	>76 days	<i>Fasciola hepatica</i>	#90
8°C	>85 days	<i>Ascaris suum</i> eggs	#90
15°C	<30 days	<i>Giardia</i> cysts	#5
18°C	4 days	<i>Strongyloides papillosus</i> 1st to 3rd stage larvae	#90
18°C	26 days	<i>Trichostrongylus colubriformis</i> eggs	#90
18°C	37 days	<i>Trichostrongylus colubriformis</i> 3rd stage larvae	#90
18°C	37 days	<i>Taenia pisiformis</i> eggs	#90
18°C	>55 days	<i>Fasciola hepatica</i> eggs	#90
18°C	>55 days	<i>Ascaris suum</i> eggs	#90
20°C	17 days	<i>Dictyocaulus viviparus</i> larvae	#22
20°C	20 days	<i>Cooperia oncophora</i> eggs	#22
22 - 27°C	>57 days	<i>Ascaris suum</i> eggs	#42
MESOPHILIC			
35°C	2.5 days	<i>Cooperia oncophora</i> eggs	#22
35°C	<7 days	<i>Dictyocaulus viviparus</i> larvae	#22
THERMOPHILIC			
55°C	7 - 10 min.	<i>Ascaris</i> eggs	#42
55°C	<10 min.	<i>Eimeria</i> sp.	#22
55°C	<10 min.	<i>Trichostrongyle</i> larvae	#42

Discussion and Conclusions

It appears that short term digestion at psychrophilic temperatures is of little value in the elimination of parasites from animal slurry. Detention times on the order of months to years would be required to achieve a 3 log₁₀ unit reduction in these organisms (Table 39).

Downey and Moore #51 reported reduction of viable trichostrongylid eggs occurs in slurry during storage. Such eggs disappeared after two months storage in summer and after three to four months storage in winter. They concluded that for this reason, ideally, spring application of slurry from trichostrongylid contaminated herds to pastures or grassland was not advisable, it being preferable to delay application until July at the earliest.⁷

#22 Anaerobic digestion at thermophilic temperatures accelerates the inactivation of cattle nematodes. At temperatures of 50-60°C, semi-continuously run reactors will inactivate most bovine nematodes. However, temperatures of 30-37°C are too low to ensure that nematodes are killed.

Unfortunately, there is a dearth of published die-off rates during anaerobic digestion of manure for the two protozoan genera of highest water quality concern, *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, especially in the mesophilic and thermophilic temperature ranges. Considering the potential benefit to be derived from reducing the spread of these parasites via animal manures, this research deserves support.

PLANT PATHOGENS

The literature is sparse on the subject of the destruction of plant pathogens by anaerobic digestion. That is why they are singled out in this section, instead of being included in the animal pathogen sections.

It appears that plant pathogens may be somewhat more sensitive to anaerobic digestion at 35°C than animal pathogens, though there is not enough information presented here for accurate generalization.

⁷The transmission of helminth larvae to grass and subsequently to grazing stock has been demonstrated for bovine intestinal trichostrongylids #51, #22. Application of cattle slurry to pastures caused calves grazing such pastures to acquire higher worm burdens and to gain less weight than calves on naturally contaminated control pastures.

Turner *et al.* #61 determined the sensitivity of three plant pathogens to mesophilic anaerobic digestion in animal slurry. The pathogens were a fungus (*Fusarium oxysporum*: a dikaryotic fungus known to cause wilt and root rot of tomatoes, carnations and rice), a bacterium (*Corynebacterium michiganense*: a bacterial pathogen known to cause vascular wilt, canker and leaf and fruit spot of tomatoes, potatoes and tobacco), and a nematode (*Globodera pallida*: The potato root eelworm: a nematode worm which destroys the root tissues of its host plant), Table 40.

The destruction of plant pathogens by anaerobic digestion is important if diseased plant residues are digested with slurry and the effluent is subsequently applied to crop land.

Table 40. Approximate D₉₀ Times of Plant Pathogens at 35°C ± 2°C Anaerobic Digestion, Lab Study #61

Organism	D ₉₀
<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	1 day
<i>Corynebacterium michiganense</i>	17 hours
<i>Globodera pallida</i>	6 hours

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