**Assignment or Discussion Activity**

**Use of Compost and/or Manure as Soil Amendments**

Provide a one page (maximum) description of whether you would be more likely to use compost or manure on your farm. If you choose another method – provide reasoning and details for that instead. This applies to your operation whether you grow crops or raise livestock – you will need a plan for building your soil and supplying plant nutrition.

1) What material would you use and why? Discuss at least three advantages and disadvantages of each (compost/manure) and why the material you selected is best for you. If you choose to use neither, that is okay. Just list the reasons, your alternative and back up your decision with sound reasoning.

2) Some things to include about **compost:**

Describe how you would build a compost pile of things you have around the farm.

* + - What are the ingredients?
    - What are the primary things you will need to control to keep the composting process going?
    - How long will it take?
    - How much will you apply to your land?

Some things to include about **manure**:

Describe the type of manure you will apply and why?

* What is the nutrient value of the manure?
* What are nutrient values of at least two other animal manures?
* What are your methods of application and how much will you apply?
* How will you take care to reduce some of the human and environmental safety problems associated with manure use in agriculture?

Some things to include about your **alternative choice of soil amendment** or fertilizer:

* Describe what you will use or do instead of using compost or manure to build soils, add organic matter and supply plant nutrients.
* What is the nutrient value of the material or how would you find out?
* What methods would you use for application, etc.?
* How much will you apply?

(The above questions may not fit exactly with your plans but **provide details** on whatever you plan to do.)