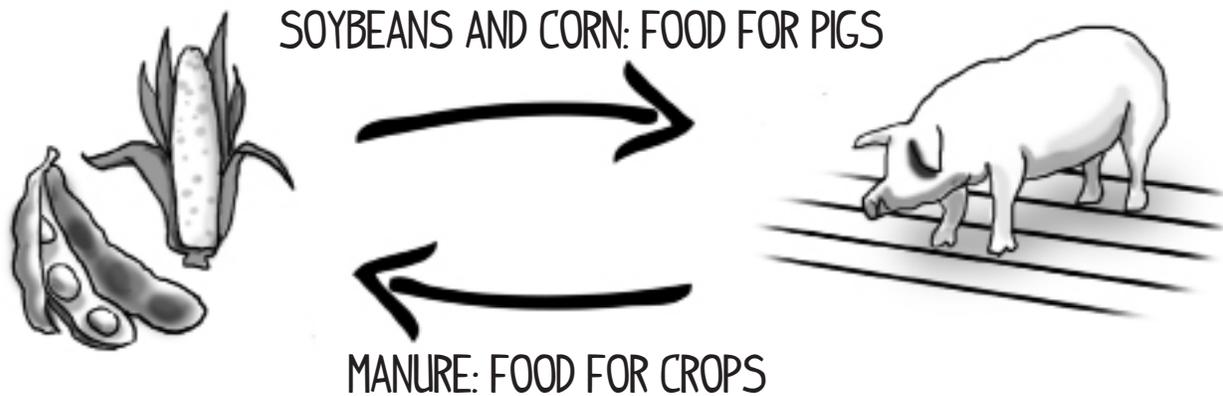


## GOLD UNDER THE BARN

Brian Watkins explains the natural cycle of using manure as food for crops and crops as food for pigs. An illustration of the cycle may look something like this:



Caption:           **(variety of answers)**          

Write a caption that could be used with this illustration. Your caption should describe a manure management plan with information on how the cycle works and its benefits to the environment and farmers.

Why is manure called “gold under the barn”?

**manure is energy and nutrients  
valuable in food production**

What did Brian share about his manure management plans?

**Storage:** List 2 ways manure can be stored.

**under the barns or in lagoons**

Application: Describe how Brian applies manure at his farm.

**in the fall after harvest  
honey wagon, applied right at or just below surface**

What did he say about lime and why it is used—what problems are solved with lime that help the environment?

**balances acidic manure and controls odor**

Explain how the practice of no-till farming works in combination with manure application to enhance the soil.

**residues left in the field balance manure and that creates a composting process**

Choose two other types of manure application and describe application considerations.

**(various answers)**

Brian says that as a farmer he thinks biologically and ecologically because the environment is important to him and to his neighbors. What environmental issues does Brian pay particular attention to?

**groundwater contamination - streams and waterways;  
soil nutrients; air quality - odor control**

Interview 3 producers in your area to find out what they are doing related to manure management. Prepare to share what you find.

**RESOURCES**

Ohio Pork Council. The Scoop - Environmental Stewardship  
<http://www.ohiopork.org/ShowVideo.aspx?channel=1&videoid=64>

National Pork Board. Utilization of Manure Nutrients for Soybean Crop Production  
[www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org)