



# **Bedded Pack Survey Report**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Bedded pack systems, when properly managed can help improve soil, water and air quality while providing a manure management alternative to livestock farms interested in avoiding liquid storage systems. While many bedded pack systems in Vermont have been managed appropriately, there are also some that are not being managed properly. For this reason, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), paused federal cost sharing of new bedded pack projects in 2011-2012. VT NRCS has reinstated the practice in FY 2013, with the understanding that farmers undergo increased education about managing their packs. The Pasture Program at the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture has submitted and processed a survey to evaluate current



Figure 2. When do you expect to build a BP?

The majority of producers use it for beef, dairy and sheep however, most found benefits by



Seventy percent reported that it took 15-30 min to manage the pack daily, between 1 to 14 days to clean it at the cost of between \$100 and 3,000 (labor and equipment). Farmers reported starting the pack between September and November and removing it for composting between April and May.

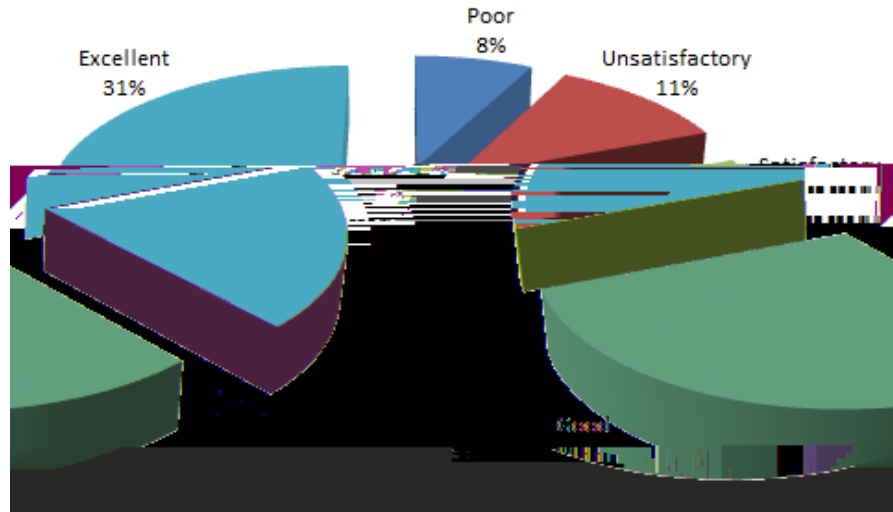


Figure 6. How do you rate your bedded pack experience?

Overall, around 80% reported having a satisfactory to excellent experience with the adoption of bedded pack systems (Fig 6).

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