

Now the slurry only smells of money

Three years ago, the calves were dropping dead, the stable was full of flies and the slurry stank of putrefaction. This was the situation for a farmer from Tinglev, Denmark. Today, it is the flies that are dead, the animals are healthy and the slurry is basically odourless.

It is often said that things have to get bad before they can get better. This was also the case for the milk producer Christian Carstensen. Three years ago, his whole livestock of Danish Holstein was ill and the stable stank of slurry gas from the 80 dairy cows. But it was not the slurry stench that made him seek new directions.

- It was the sick animals of course, so when a consultant asked me to try something new named Biossa, I thought: at least it cannot make things worse, says Christian Carstensen from Tinglev, Denmark.

Here there and everywhere.

Biossa is a lactic acid product full of micro organisms and according to the producer this should give "life" to the fodder and thereby the animals digestion. Christian Carstensen did as he was advised and sprayed the liquid onto the silage and even on the slurry.

- At the same time I removed the artificial fertilisers, took away the medications and stopped spraying toxins on my fields. The result was that my cows slowly recovered and the output increased, says the farmer.

He also mentions that the slurry changed consistency and colour.

- Before, the slurry was green and black and smelled of putrefaction. It got stuck in the channels even if it was gooier at that time. Now, it all of a sudden got more solid but flowed much better. It did not smell anymore either and the colour had turned brownish, Christian Carstensen remembers.

When he took a closer look at the slurry or behind the cows in the stable he could see that the straw and the core, that before were whole, now were digested in a completely different way.

- It simply was like day and night. Once I thought that slurry was slurry, but I had to rethink. My slurry is much more homogeneous, says Christian Carstensen.

Earth worms and accounts

On his 100 hectares of land he can determine that there are a lot more earthworms and the slurry is converted faster. Out by the slurry tanks and in the stable it smells almost like a forest floor.

A composting of the slurry is actually taking place. The Biossa has been through the animals and there is a huge difference. If somebody said to me: Carstensen, you should farm as you did before, I would stop. Before, I had headaches from the slurry stench when I went to bed and the flies were annoying. That has all changed says Christian Carstensen.

One thing is a better smell and more earthworms, but what about the accounts?

- These are the best two years I have had as a farmer. Expenses for artificial fertilisers and toxins have been saved and the same goes for the medications. My output has increased and the cattle are healthier. I buy Biossa for about 10.000 DKK a year so it should be easy to work out what is more profitable, says Christian Carstensen.

Christian Carstensen is silent for a while when he is asked if there are any drawbacks at all with the product:

- Well, the drawback is that I get sick when I think about what I have been doing all the previous years, says Christian Carstensen.

Box:

Biosa is actually two products. Terra Biosa is registered as a composting agent and Animal Biosa is sold as an ensiling remedy. They are both GMO-free products consisting of an organic herb mixture, which has been fermented with lactic acid bacteria. The manure from animals that have been fed Biosa is therefore affected, according to the producer. The manure composts without rotting. Thus, the development of gasses is reduced and the fly nuisance minimised.