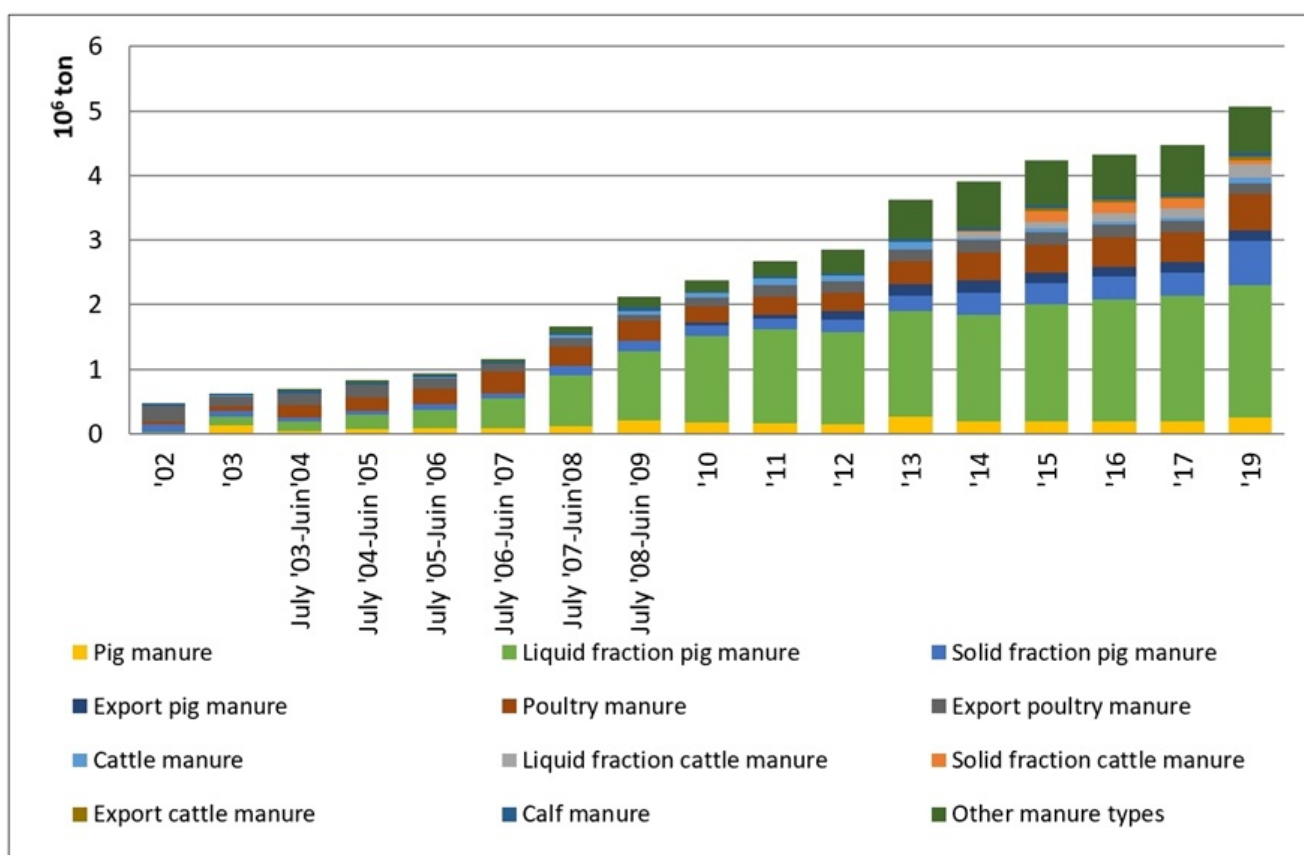


State of affairs of manure Processing in Flanders

Every year, the Flemish Coordination Centre for Manure Processing organizes an inquiry about the situation and evolution of the manure processing in Flanders. All data on 2019 can be found in the full [report](#) (only available in Dutch).

Summary results 2019

The results for 2019 show that 49.8 million kg nitrogen from animal manure was processed and/or exported. In 2017, this was 44,1 million kg nitrogen and in 2016 42,3 million kg nitrogen. The amount of nitrogen processed in Flanders thus increases. Also the amount of phosphorous treated in Flanders keeps on increasing.



The largest part (almost 87 %) of the treated amount of nitrogen in 2019 was realized by the treatment and export of Flemish pig manure (in total 21.2 million kg N or 42.6 %) together with the treatment and export of poultry manure (in total 22.2 million kg N or 44.6 %). In 2019 is the treatment and export of pig manure and the treatment of poultry manure increased, while the export of raw poultry manure and poultry manure has decreased.

In 2019 is the treatment of cattle and calves manure increased (+ 6.6 %), although less cattle manure was imported from the Netherlands and the treatment of the thick fraction of cattle manure is decreased with 59 %. However, the export of raw cattle manure to the Netherlands (+ 6.2 %), the treatment of the thin fraction of cattle manure (+ 48.1%) and the treatment of stable manure from cattle (+ 4.5%) have increased strongly.

The most applied technology (113 of the 136 installations) in Flanders is the biological treatment (nitrification-denitrification) from the thin fraction of pig manure, cattle manure and/or digestate, followed by the biothermal drying (17 installations) of the thick fraction. In 2018 and 2019, 9 new installations were started: six biological treatment installations for the treatment of the thin fraction and 1 biothermal

drying installations, from which 1 hygienisation unit based on containers instead of concrete tunnels and two fermentation installations who process the raw digestate or the liquid and solid fraction of digestate.

As in 2017, the largest part of treated nitrogen in 2019 was treated by means of biothermal drying (of poultry manure, horse manure and the thick fraction of pig and cattle manure), sometimes followed by further drying and granulation (18.4 million kg N or 42.3%). A smaller amount of nitrogen (12.9 million kg N or 29.8 %) was treated by means of the biological treatment (of pig and cattle manure and digestate), sometimes followed by further treatment of the potassium rich effluent by means of constructed wetlands. The largest amount of phosphate (15 million kg P₂O₅) or 55.6 % is treated by means of biothermal drying (sometimes followed by drying and granulation).

It can be concluded that the conventional technique of manure treatment in Flanders, the separation of the raw manure in a thin fraction, treated biologically by means of nitrification-denitrification and a thick fraction, biothermal dried in a sort of composting process and exported afterwards, is crucial for an efficient treatment of the Flemish manure surplus.

A detailed report (in Dutch) on the results of the inquiry on 2019 can be found [here](#).