

# Interactive Fun: Nutrient Management Cycle

## Objective:

To educate children about the importance of the nutrient cycle to farming and demonstrate that farming is “the original recycling program.” Children should leave the activity with an understanding that crops, animals, and food are closely interconnected through this “circle of life” and that nothing is wasted!

## What You Need:

- An energetic volunteer
- Blue boxes as props
- A sign to demonstrate the cycle (see below)
- An item to represent each “link” in the nutrient management cycle.
  - Live or freshly cut crops (i.e. corn stalks)
  - Food products from the crop (i.e. corn chips, corn cereals)
  - A bag of composted animal manure
  - Animal feed

## Hint:

- An inspirational quote for the volunteer leading this activity: “Toilet humour...never appropriate, always funny!” Don’t be afraid to stray from technical terms to describe animal waste in order to ensure that your message gets across!

## Topics that Connect Well to the Nutrient Cycle:

- Environmental Farm Plans (EFP)
- Buffer strips
- Windbreaks
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Pesticide use (Pesticide application has been reduced by 52% since 1983.)

