



Department of Crop & Soil Sciences

Waste Management Institute

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June 2005 UPDATE

Here is the latest news about some upcoming events and new projects, etc. We welcome your feedback.

Please let us know if you want to get on/off our mailing list.

Warm (no kidding!) regards - from the CWMI team

1. New Employee

Mary Schwarz started with CWMI a couple of months ago (replacing Emily Scherer Ouckama who replaced Dan Olmstead). Mary came to CWMI with a great background in research support in the veterinary/dairy area as well as previous work in IPM. She fits right in with the CWMI high energy team! Stop in to meet Mary if you are in the neighborhood.

2. Compost Roundtable discussion

August 3, 2005, 9-12, Ramada Inn, 2310 Triphammer Road, Ithaca
This roundtable will be held in conjunction with the Cornell Poultry Conference, but is open to anyone. It will provide an opportunity to share information.

The agenda:

Composting Roundtable

Ellen Harrison and Jean Bonhotol

-Expanding Compost Markets and Guidelines for Compost Use

Turf management

Agriculture

Erosion Control

Landscape creation

-Potential changes to the NYSDEC 360 Rules

-Ag and Markets Fertilizer Rules and Compost

-Compost and Organic agriculture

-Composting on farms as a nutrient management tool

-Composting flesh waste

Farm mortalities

3. Finding Butchers that Compost

We would like to assess how many butchers in NYS are composting their residuals. The reason we are specifically interested in butchers is because they are scrutinized more than other composters. In the future it seems likely that there will be some regulation that will affect them. Many have come to seminars, but we know there are others we have not reached. If you know of an operation, please send us contact information – ideally the name, town, phone number and email. Thanks for your help now and in the past.

4. New CWMI Projects

In the last update we mentioned that we have projects starting in management of road killed deer through composting and in the use of dried (partially composted) manure as bedding in dairy barns.

New projects which start soon include:

- A Hatch project (USDA funds that come through the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station): **The Effect of Organic Residuals on Agricultural Soil Health**

This 3-year project involves a multidisciplinary team of researchers (Harrison and McBride from Crop and Soil Sciences; Steenhuis and Richards from Biological and Environmental Engineering; Hay from Microbiology as well as colleagues at Penn State, U. Guelph, and William and Mary) as well as an advisory group of stakeholders.

Seven treatments (various manure and sludge-based amendments and a control) will be applied to large field plots. The amendments, soils and plants will be monitored for a variety of parameters. The hope is that these plots will become a long-term study site. In addition to these new plots, we will examine sites in PA and Guelph to which similar organic amendments have been applied.

- A Smith-Lever project (USDA funds that come through Cornell Cooperative Extension): **Empowering Citizens to Protect Health through Soil Test Guidance and Recommendations**

This 3-year project involves multiple collaborators including Cornell Cooperative Extension educators in 5 counties, faculty and staff from Cornell and Penn State, and experts from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NYS Dept. of Health Services.

We will develop materials to help citizens, farmers and others that are concerned about soil chemical contamination know how to test soils, what tests might be appropriate depending on their concern, how to interpret test results and how to reduce risks. Developing a list of relevant chemicals is a first step. We would be happy to hear from you about which chemicals you think we should address (and why). We would also appreciate receiving any materials you know of that help a lay public understand the risks associated with particular contaminants.

5. NYS Soil Clean Up Standards

The Brownfields law that NYS passed last year requires the Dept. of Environmental Conservation, in consultation with the NYS Dept. of Health Services, to develop risk-based soil clean up objectives for remediation. The tables listing these soil concentrations will be part of regulations that govern clean up. A draft is expected shortly and public information sessions will be held and public comments accepted for at least 90 days.

CWMI along with several Cornell faculty provided comments a year ago on the methods that the DEC and DOH were proposing to use to develop the standards (see "Comments on Methods to Conduct Soil Survey and to Develop soil Standards" at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/soilcomments.doc>). The same group will participate in a collaborative effort to review and provide comments on the proposed standards. A group of environmental organizations obtained funding for the project from several foundations.

6. Job Openings

- The NYS Farm Viability Institute is hiring staff to work with the Executive Director and the Institutes' Board of Directors to secure funds to support the Institute's programs and to provide oversight and evaluation of both new and ongoing projects and to work with agricultural producers, extension workers, the research community, and farm organizations across the state to identify barriers to profitability that can be addressed through future Institute activities. Details on these employment and grant opportunities including instructions on how to apply for both can be found at the Institute's web site, www.nyfarmviability.org.
- Peter Wright's departure resulted in this job opening.
Extension Associate, Sr - 03991 July 15, 2005 application deadline

Description:

The Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York is seeking an Integrated Dairy Waste Management Specialist to provide leadership and support in the development and delivery of educational programs to New York dairy producers and agri-services that focus on animal waste management as it relates to reduced environmental risk and use of co-products. The candidate is expected to collaborate with Cornell faculty and other senior staff in a multi-disciplinary, integrated, team-based approach. A strong applied research component (at least 50% effort) will be part of the overall extension program with an emphasis on field studies of on-farm manure handling/treatment systems. Applicant will be expected to obtain funding for research projects through grant opportunities.

A major programmatic focus will be on manure treatment options. Develop, document, and demonstrate manure treatment and handling methods for NYS dairy farms that will allow them to effectively and economically implement their nutrient management plans. Program is administered by PRO-DAIRY.

Qualifications:

Master of Science or PhD degree in agricultural or biological engineering or related engineering field with strengths in environmental engineering, soil and water engineering, agricultural waste management, and production dairy farming. Minimum of 3 years professional experience and a Professional Engineering License required or obtainable in 3 years. Demonstrated strength and background in data collection and analysis, especially in applied research settings. Incumbent must demonstrate promise to have a strong commitment to extension in the support of the dairy industry and the ability to work productively in individual and team settings. Strong technical writing and verbal communication skills and ability to manage multiple projects.

Salary: Commensurate with training and experience. An attractive fringe benefits package is available.

Application: Applicants may apply with personal vitae, college transcripts, three to five reference letters and a personal statement detailing how and why you fulfill the requirements of this position and mail to:

Dr. Alan Bell, 149 Morrison Hall, Department of Animal Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4801. Tel: 607-255-2862. Fax: 607-255-9829. Email: awb6@cornell.edu

Applications will be accepted through July 1, 2005.

<http://www.ohr.cornell.edu/jobs/index.html>

7. Deer and Chronic Wasting Disease in NYS

A workshop for sportsmen, farmers, and outdoor writers. August 13, 2005, at the Wyndham Hotel, Syracuse, NY.

Topics include: Cause and effects of CWD, The Wisconsin experience, Current status in US and NYS, and Public health concerns. For more information go to:

<http://wildlifecontrol.info/cwd>.