



Cornell University

Waste Management Institute

817 Bradfield Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853

607-255-1187
cwmi@cornell.edu
<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu>

School of Integrative Plant Science
Soil and Crop Sciences Section

CWMI Update – May 2015

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/updates.htm>

See our blog for the latest news and events at: cwmi.css.cornell.edu

Educational events

- August 19-21, 2015 – The 2nd **Agricultural Plastic Recycling Conference & Trade Show**, San Diego, CA. <http://agplasticconference.com/agenda/>
- September 27-October 1, 2015 - **5th International Symposium on Animal Mortality Management**, Lancaster, PA. <http://animalmortgmt.org/>

Recycling Agricultural Plastics (RAPP) - Program Work Team (PWT) meeting summary

The first RAPP-PWT meeting was held April 27, 2015 in Delaware County. Thirty-five enthusiastic people from across NYS attended. A highlight of the meeting was touring the Delaware County Solid Waste and Recycling facilities, including the new MRF. Sue McIntyre explained how the county handles agricultural plastics for recycling.

Agricultural plastics in NY have reached a milestone with a 10% recycling rate. Markets, while not numerous, have improved. More solid waste and recycling partnerships are needed to improve the diversion rates. Continued funding was also discussed; Farm Bureau offered that there is significant interest and support from the farm community. Meeting notes are available at:

<http://www.recycleagplastics.css.cals.cornell.edu/RAPP-PWTSummary2015.pdf>

Educational materials

- Since December 2014, USDA has confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 in the Pacific, Central and Mississippi Flyways (migratory paths for birds). The disease has been found in wild birds, as well as in some backyard and commercial poultry flocks. It has not been found in the Northeast yet. Being prepared for an emergency event such as this is extremely important. Educational materials are available on CWMI's website and disposal information for other states can be found on our interactive map:
 - Natural Rendering: Composting Poultry Mortality – The Emergency Response to Disease Control fact sheet, <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/aifs.pdf>.
 - Six-minute video, illustrated poster, literature review and PowerPoint presentation at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/ai.htm>
 - US Mortality and Butcher Waste Disposal Laws, <http://compost.css.cornell.edu/mapsdisposal.html>
- **Metals in Urban Garden Soils**, http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/Metals_Urban_Garden_Soils.pdf. Fact sheet from the *Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities* project with information about metals commonly found in urban garden soils, including sources, behavior in garden soil, concerns about human and plant health, what gardeners can do, and related topics.
- **Two-bin compost system**. Composting food scraps decreases the amount of “waste” going to the landfills. Not only does it save money, but it produces a valuable soil amendment. The picture below from Seneca Falls Middle School in NY shows how every school and institution should look; small waste containers and large organics containers. Plans available on CWMI website at <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/2binsystem.pdf>.



Design by Sayre Stevens

Westchester County, NY study: “Improving Turf and Soil Health, Reducing Energy Use, Conserving Water, and Assessing Pathogen and Tick Populations when Mulching Leaves in Place”

In the Northeast, including NYS, municipalities banned leaves from being placed in landfills. Instead, they collect leaves and compost them locally or ship them long distances. Fall leaf management is a challenge for communities, especially in densely populated areas with high tree densities. Roadside leaf piles clog storm drains, cause flooding and pose other hazards. Leaf pick-up and transport is costly and increases fuel use and emissions. Mulch mowing leaves requires one to pay close attention to size and amount of leaves left on the turf or leaf litter build up which can potentially kill the underlying turf or provide a suitable habitat for insect pests to proliferate. Gaining better understanding of how leaf and grass mulching will affect insect and pathogen populations, soil and turf quality will allow homeowners landscapers and property managers to make better yard waste management decisions. Mulching leaves in place may help to decrease community labor and collection costs, lower carbon footprint with decreased fuel use, improve soil health and water infiltration, decrease runoff and reduce irrigation needs, increasing community sustainability. The project team will assess the potential effects of this practice on soil and turf quality, soil nutrient supply for spring regrowth and monitor effects on tick and other insect pest populations, while educating the public about the importance of healthy soils, water conservation, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

NYSAR3 Textile Recycling Initiative Wins EPA Award

'Re-Clothe NY' Textile Recovery Campaign reps accept 2015 Environmental Champion Awards at EPA Region 2 Headquarters in Manhattan on April 24.

From right to left: 'Re-Clothe NY' Campaign Chairman Dan Rain, NYSAR3 Board member and Textile Committee Chairwoman Melissa Young, Council for Textile Recovery (CTR) Chairman Eric Stubin, and Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART) Board member Nir Katz (photo by Kristen Lilkas).



Here is the link to the full story:

<http://files.ctctcdn.com/c3f5e4f9001/82652d28-fd43-4197-98f8-1780ae484183.pdf>

CWMI team:

Jean, Mary, Nate, Hannah, and Lauri