



Cornell University

## Waste Management Institute

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Department of Crop & Soil Sciences

## CWMI Update: April 2007

### **1. Request for Data on Yard Waste Compost**

Through a previous project, CWMI compiled data on manure-based composts (see <http://compost.css.cornell.edu/mlreporhome.htm>), but we do not have data on yard waste composts. Since there is no regulatory requirement for testing, these data are not routinely collected. We would like to develop a data base of compost quality and include yard wastes. **Please send us any data you may have and/or contact us ([cwmi@cornell.edu](mailto:cwmi@cornell.edu)) if you have data to share or suggestions for obtaining data on yard waste composts.**

### **2. Composting Road-Kill**

The NYS Department of Transportation-sponsored project looking at pathogen reduction and worker health and safety associated with composting of road-killed animals is in the final stages of data analysis. **A series of workshops and demonstrations is planned for this summer.** To be held at 5 locations in NYS (Long Island, Highland, Syracuse area, Albany area and Buffalo area), these workshops will be open to local highway staff as well as NYS DOT and others who would be interested. When the schedule is set, we will send out a notice to you (and post it on our web site). In the meantime, you might let potentially interested people in your area know they are coming up. **A DVD, fact sheet and poster are in the works.** For information on the project see: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/tirc/tirc.htm>

### **3. Composting Mortalities and Butcher Wastes**

Through support from Cornell Cooperative Extension, CWMI is providing technical assistance on composting to manage flesh wastes. **Three posters, in both English and Spanish,** address key points and are available at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/naturalrendering.htm>

Mortality Composting in Northern NY - 3-4 counties in northern NY are losing their rendering services at the end of March. CWMI is working with these counties to hold composting workshops to meet farm needs; so far two workshops are scheduled:

April 13 - Clinton County, contact Anita Deming at 518-962-4810 x409 or [ald6@cornell.edu](mailto:ald6@cornell.edu) for more information and to register.

April 25 - Franklin County, 1-3pm at Kim & Kimberly Richey's Farm, Chasm Rd, Chateaugay. Contact Carl Tillinghast at 518-483-7403 or [cat21@cornell.edu](mailto:cat21@cornell.edu) for more information and to register.

Workshop information is also posted on our web site at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/compostworkshops.htm>.

#### **4. Using Manure Solids for Dairy Barn Bedding**

Work continues on the project to examine the use of manure solids as bedding. Partially funded by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, the NY Farm Viability Institute, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell, this project is looking at the relationship of pathogens in the bedding to herd health as well as assessing the economic and nutrient management impacts. A **summary of the literature** has been added to the web site (<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/bedding.htm>). Dairy producers who are or are interested in using manure solids for bedding got together (along with some veterinarians) to discuss their experiences and concerns. In response to producers needs, an **added focus of the project is to evaluate the impact of rebedding frequency**.

#### **5. Resource Materials**

CWMI tries to make the educational materials that we produce easily available. Many are available at no cost through our web site. DSpace is a new digital repository system that captures, stores, indexes, preserves, and redistributes information. Available to us at Cornell, **CWMI has put most of its materials up on DSpace**, making it even easier to find and access materials (<http://dspace.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/2146>). An advantage of this system is that the URL addresses should not change (circumventing the problem of items getting "lost" when a server is changed).

Some youth educational materials produced by CWMI in the past have been digitized and are now available. These include "**Composting in the Classroom**" and "**What about Waste**" (<http://compost.css.cornell.edu/CIC.html> and <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/WhataboutWaste.pdf>).

Some CWMI materials, such as videos, are not yet available through the web. In addition, some people may prefer to purchase hard copies. **Materials for purchase** are now being handled through Cornell University Press: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/cupressorders.htm>.

#### **6. Recent Stakeholder Meetings**

A meeting on "**Compost: What Is It Worth?**" was held in conjunction with the November meeting of the NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR<sup>3</sup>). A panel examined the question of compost value and in particular the potential cost and markets for municipal yard waste composts. To see the powerpoint presentations given at the meeting, go to: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/NYSAR3compost.htm>.

**The Managing Wastes Program Work Team** was convened in January. In addition to a wide ranging discussion, the group focused on air emissions and potential health impacts of large compost facilities. The meeting summary is posted at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/pwt2006summary.htm>. A summary of the literature on air emissions and compost is being developed. We will let you know when it is available.

**7. Congratulations to Jim Marion** who just retired from NYS Dept of Corrections. Jim has been a wonderful and inspiring compost colleague for many years. We'll miss him!