



Cornell University

## Waste Management Institute

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## CWMI Update: June 2006

### 1. Using Manure Solids for Dairy Barn Bedding

CWMI is engaged in a several year 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 new WWW site (<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/bedding.htm>) contains a project summary. Additional materials, including a literature review, will be posted as they become available. Let us know if you would like to be informed about outreach activities that will be scheduled when results are available.

An article in Hoards Dairyman on "Composting Bedded Pack Dairy Barns" has generated interest and questions as farmers are assessing whether this is a good option for them. Questions have been raised related to cow udder health, somatic cell count, heat generated from the process, air quality for employees and cows, and more. CWMI has an opportunity to seek funding that will compliment our current research on using manure solids for bedding. **If you know of farms that are implementing composting bedded pack in their barns and might be interested in working with us on answering some of these questions, please let us know ASAP.**

### 2. Degradable Plastics

At the Managing Wastes Program Work Team meeting in December, the topic of degradable plastics was discussed, particularly in reference to incorporation into compost piles. Information was developed by CWMI to clarify the various questions. It can be accessed at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/degradableplasticsupdate.pdf>

### 3. Home Garden Use of Milorganite

At the request of some Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, CWMI has written a fact sheet on Milorganite, a sewage sludge product used by some in home gardens. That fact sheet can be access at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/milorganite.pdf>

### 4. Compost: What is it Worth?

CWMI is organizing a panel discussion on the relationship between public and private sectors regarding compost-related services and marketing of compost. Being held in conjunction with (and just proceeding) the NYSAR3 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NYS Recycling Conference in Syracuse, the two-hour session will begin at 10am on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. This session will help rekindle the NYS Organics Recycling and Compost Council and is in part a response to issues raised at the Program Work Team meeting convened by CWMI in December at which both municipal and private compost producers

expressed interest in “leveling the playing field” in regard to pricing of compost (many municipalities give it away and would like to move to recovering costs). If you are interested in attending, let us know and/or look for information on the NYSAR3 WWW site at <http://www.nysar3.org>.

### **5. Composting Animal Mortalities**

As a follow up to the conference held in Maine in 2005, CWMI is working with other organizations on a 2006 National Carcass Disposal Symposium to be held December 5-7 at the University of Maryland. Abstracts for proposed papers and posters are invited and may be submitted until August 15. See <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/application.pdf> for further information.

CWMI is continuing the NYS DOT sponsored project on composting as a management strategy for road-killed deer in NYS. Information on the project including quarterly reports can be viewed at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/tirc/tirc.htm>

### **6. Composting Equipment**

A new fact sheet on composting equipment has been added to the CWMI series addressing large scale composting. It can be accessed at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/compostfs7.pdf>

All of the fact sheets are available on the CWMI WWW site. The series includes:

1. Marketing Composts and Meeting Consumer Needs
2. Regulation and Certification of Composts
3. Improving and Maintaining Compost Quality
4. Testing Composts
5. Compost Bulking Materials
6. Compost Pads
7. Compost Equipment

### **7. Organic Chemicals in Sewage Sludges**

To help fill the gap in knowledge about the types and concentrations of organic chemicals in sewage sludges, CWMI compiled data from research papers and reports. An article by Harrison, Oakes, Hysell and Hay presenting the findings is in the journal Science of the Total Environment and can be accessed through the CWMI WWW site (<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/Sludge.html>). Spreadsheets containing all of the data and supplemental information are also available on the CWMI WWW site.

### **8. Welcome to Bob Rynk**

Bob Rynk who is well known in compost circles will be starting a faculty position at SUNY Cobleskill this summer. We are lucky to have him in NYS.