



Independent coverage of composting, wood recycling and organics management



# Composting News

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## Equipment focus:

### A look at windrow turners

By Ken McEntee

*Continued from October 2019 issue.*

*This feature about compost turners is not intended to endorse or promote any particular product or manufacturer. All known windrow turner manufacturers who sell machines in the U.S. were invited to participate in this article.*

*Part one of this feature examined the benefits of using a windrow turner, who makes them and how to tell which machine is best for your operation.*

#### What size is right?

There are countless reasons why a buyer will choose a particular sized turner, said Todd Dunderdale, senior area manager for Komptech Americas LLC, of Denver, Colo. One reason is to

*(See Windrow turners, page 4)*



Windrow turners demonstrated at Compost2019, in Phoenix.  
Photo: Composting News

## Biochar gains momentum on Oregon farms

By Tracy Robillard

**I**t started as a backyard hobby fueled by curiosity in rural Southwest Oregon. Just three years later it transformed into a new conservation approach that forest owners all over the country can use with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The benefits of this new approach are incredible—improved soil health, enhanced soil water holding capacity, increased plant growth and vigor, cleaner air quality, and perhaps most importantly, locals say, the ability to sequester carbon forever.

The secret lies in biochar, which returns carbon to the soil in the form of long-lasting charcoal. It's made by baking biomass - such as tree wood, plants, manure and other organic materials - without the oxygen that could cause it to burn completely to ash.



*(See Oregon, page 13)*

## Organic farming can contribute to Ohio's water quality plan

**T**he Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) said it applauds the state's proposed H2Ohio plan to address harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie and other critical water quality issues, but said the plan fails to acknowledge how organic farming can provide solutions to the problem.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine this month announced the plan, which includes 10 best practices to reduce phosphorus runoff. Phosphorus runoff has created algal blooms in Lake Erie which led, earlier this year to the passage of a Toledo

city law that gives the lake the right to file lawsuits against polluters.

The best practices are:

- Soil testing;
- Variable-rate fertilization;
- Surface nutrient application;

*(See Ohio, page 14)*

### Highlights

- n **Diners' food scrap is key to diversion efforts**
- n **National compost prices**

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