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Driving hour restrictions cost industry \$1 billion per year

By Ken McEntee

This article, written by Composting News editor and publisher Ken McEntee, was originally published in Soil & Mulch Producer News, November/December 2019.

Federal Hours of Service (HOS) restrictions on truck drivers are costing the mulch and soil industry more than \$1 billion per year - averaging close to \$5 million per company, the Mulch and Soil Council (MSC) estimated. Mulch and soil producers could save that amount if they are granted an Agricultural Commodity Exemption to HOS regulations, said Robert LaGasse, MSC executive director.

(See *Trucking*, page 8)



Ahlstrom-Munksjö receives OK compost certification

Finland-based Ahlstrom-Munksjö has received the OK Compost Home and OK Compost Industrial certifications from TÜV Austria for its Cristal and Cristalline ranges of transparent papers. OK compost Home and OK compost Industrial certifications confirm that Cristal and Cristalline transparent papers can be composted at home and in industrial composting facilities, the company said.

Whether used as transparent bread bags or paper window for fruits and vegetable sachets, Cristal and Cristalline product ranges are ideal materials to produce all-paper packaging solutions enabling consumers to quickly identify the products they buy, Ahlstrom said.

Made of responsibly-sourced natural fibers, these translucent papers are renewable and biodegradable materials, safe for direct food contact. Recyclable according to EN 13430 and now OK compost certified, Cristal and Cristalline offer alternatives to



(See *Certification*, page 15)

Senate hears about benefits of farm-based renewable energy

Biogas systems produce renewable energy or fuels and are especially important to deploy on farms because their benefits stretch beyond just low or negative carbon energy, biogas industry representatives told a senate committee and staffers today. Industry leaders, including Patrick Serfass, executive director of the American Biogas Council (ABC), said biogas systems diversify a farmer's income by converting waste streams into revenue sources, manage odor, manure and nutrients and build better communities because of the

multifaceted way they interact with the neighboring area.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Senate Agriculture Committee ranking member, and the minority staff of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and

(See *Senate*, page 14)

Highlights

- n EPA sued for relying on illegal clean water rules
- n National compost prices

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