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ARS scientists are working on ways to get more manure from feedlot operations to farms where it can be used to boost crop yields. Photo: John Nienaber (ARS).

Manuresheds: What to do with excess nutrients?

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists said they are developing an innovative approach to address a major environmental challenge facing the nation's animal farmers - the accumulation of nutrients in the manure.

ARS researchers looked into the feasibility of transporting nutrient-rich livestock manure to farmland that could benefit from its use and noted that in some areas, composting has been a preferred means of improving export potential for dry feedlot manure, as it reduces nuisance odors and pests.

Large farms, more manure

ARS said manure produced in livestock and poultry operations has been

(See Nutrients, page 2)

U.S. Biochar Initiative looks to add staff, expand market development

The U.S. Biochar Initiative (USBI) said it is trying to raise \$175,000 to hire a paid staff. The all-volunteer non-profit organization, based in Canandaigua, N.Y., said a paid staff is needed to meet "increasingly complex needs" and focus on the following areas:

- Biochar market and business development, including industry networking, industry tools (such as biochar testing services), outreach and education, all geared for the U.S. and North American markets;
- Policy leadership and collaboration to develop and promote supportive policies that incentivize markets and biochar production;
- Capacity building and development, including grant writing and management, donor relations, fund management and accounting.

"If you are like us, biochar is one of the things that you find most hopeful in our world today," the organization said. "With all the bad news out there, we are privileged to know about the good news of biochar. Biochar shows us that we can make a difference. We can sequester carbon in soil and products. We can improve soil health and food security. We can show the world a



(See Development, page 13)

California to fund soil carbon projects

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI), in coordination with the agency's Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel, is accepting proposals for new soil carbon sequestration management practices for inclusion in its Healthy Soils Program (HSP).

As part of program development beginning in 2016, CDFA identified specific soil management practices eligible for funding through the HSP.

Some of these practices include no or reduced tillage, planting cover crops and compost application.

In subsequent rounds of funding, CDFA expanded the suite of healthy soils practices through a public process in

(See Carbon, page 8)

Highlights

- n **New York City residents want food composting back**
- n **National compost prices**

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Manure

Nutrients

From page 1

increasing since the 1950s when large-scale feeding operations, along with large-scale crop farms, began to replace many of the nation's small, family-run farms that traditionally produced both crops and livestock and used the manure as fertilizer to boost crop yields.

The transition has created efficient, high-yielding crop and livestock operations, but it has also severed a longstanding symbiotic relationship where the excess nutrients created by the manure had productive uses.

Though some animal farms typically use some manure to grow feed, most animal farms have insufficient land for using all of their manure. The surplus can pose an environmental threat to air and water quality, ARS said. Yet manure

contains phosphorus and nitrogen, which are key nutrients for many crops that are now supplied by commercial fertilizers.

"The question is what to do with the manure from livestock operations with surplus manure nutrients, and how to get it to farmland where it is needed most," said Sheri Spiegel, an ARS scientist in Las Cruces, N.M.

Manureshed proposal

Spiegel and her research colleagues have proposed using "manuresheds" to create systems that reconnect crop and livestock production so that more manure can be used to fertilize more crops. The manureshed concept is designed to promote the practices, technologies and management systems that would clean up manure, while building healthy soils and supporting crop yields. It also illuminates the fundamental challenges facing

sustainable manure use and creates a framework for addressing the problem in a way that's clearly sustainable, the researchers said.

They outlined how the concept would work in a recent paper in the journal *Agricultural Systems*.

Sources and sinks

They collected data about the manure produced in feeding operations, the fertilizer needed for crops and the nutrients removed by them in 3,109 counties across the U.S. (There are 3,141 counties in the country.) Based on that data, they classified the counties as either manure "sources" or "sinks," depending on whether their manure nutrients exceeded use by their crops (sources), or whether their crops could use the excess nutrients to fill deficiencies or substitute for fertilizer (sinks).

Results showed that there is potential to redistribute manure from source to



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sink counties across much of the country, with source counties in 40 of 48 states—and much opportunity in the South.

The study authors also identified clusters of counties dominated by one or two production systems, such as dairy or poultry, and they highlighted opportunities for redistributing manure by joining the clusters into four regional manure sheds—in the Northwest, Southwest, Midwest and Southeast. Possibilities for efficient transport and use of excess manure from each animal industry are also discussed in the paper.

The researchers noted that backhauling efforts similar to what they propose have been underway in some areas of the U.S. Truckers from Western Pennsylvania, for instance, now haul hay to mushroom growers in the eastern part of the state and pick up poultry litter for the return trip west, effectively exporting poultry litter from the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Programs in Minnesota, Maryland and Arkansas also offer farmers and producers various

incentives to transport manure from feedlots to farms.

Carolina poultry and hogs

The most extensive manure shed in the country, researchers said, is the Carolina poultry and hog manure shed, with necessary transport distances extending well into the mid-Atlantic and southeastern U.S. This manure shed spans 512 counties in total. The Carolina poultry-hog manure shed presents some of the greatest challenges for connecting nutrient cycles in animal and crop production, researchers said. The manure shed extends into hotspots of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, a region that is responding to the imposition of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) under the U.S. Clean Water Act and is grappling with its own need for manure export for local animal production systems - such as poultry in the Shenandoah Valley and the Delmarva

(See *Nutrients*, page 4)



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Manure

Nutrients

From page 3

Peninsula of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and mixed animal production in Lancaster, Pa.

Further, most hog manures are liquid,

stored in uncovered lagoon storage systems with only limited, periodic clean-outs that would remove the manure solids that are more conducive to transport.

A third challenge to connecting hog and crop production is that the solids extracted from liquid hog manure contain the highest relative

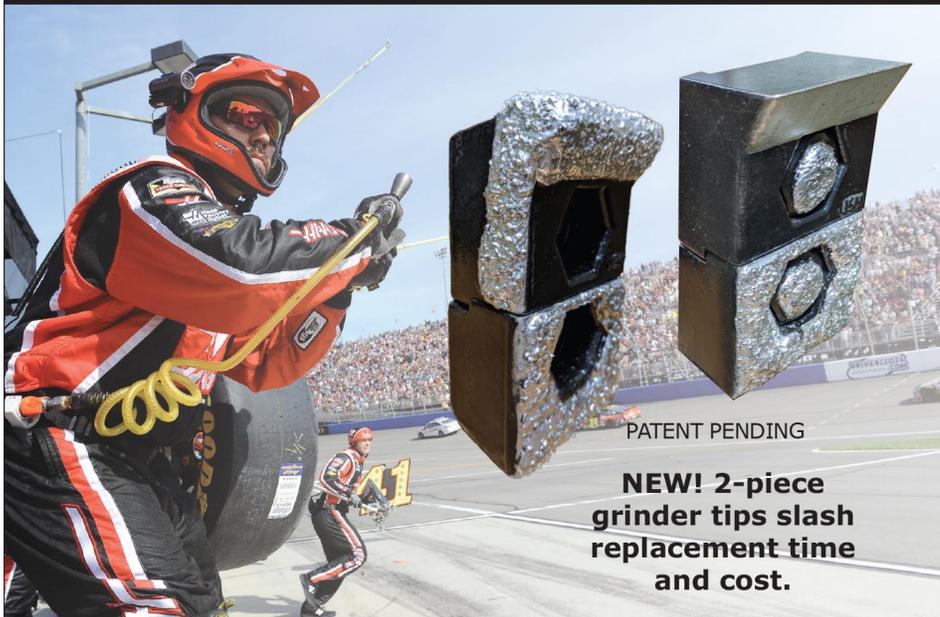
concentrations of both total and water extractable phosphorus compared with other major livestock categories.

Nitrification to compost

However, there are opportunities to extend the transport of hog manure nutrients, researchers said. Innovations in nutrient recovery from hog manures have moved beyond the realm of research and development to commercialization, albeit still being in a nascent stage. One on-farm treatment system employs a nitrification bioreactor, followed by the addition of calcium hydroxide to precipitate calcium-based phosphorus.

Manure solids containing more than 90 percent of the phosphorus in hog manure are exported for end uses in compost or low-solubility fertilizer. A co-benefit of this system is the removal of odors and pathogens. While tradeoffs for this technology exist, not the least of which involve the cost of establishing on-farm treatment plants and the undeveloped nature of markets for the

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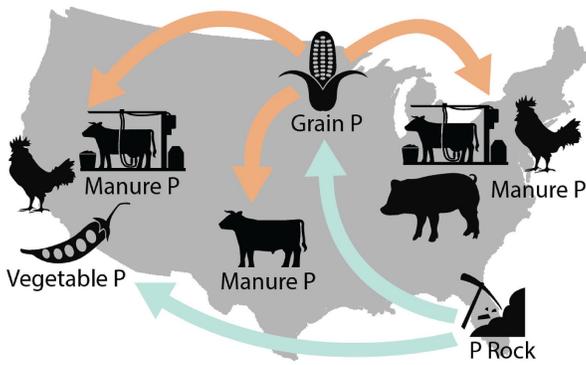
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Major phosphorus flows in the United States, from mining of sedimentary deposits in the Southeast, to fertilization of Midwestern grains, to accumulation in several animal production regions. Image: ARS

fertilizer products, early prototypes offer opportunities to better understand and resolve such barriers. Moreover, the poultry component of this manureshed presents a variety of opportunities for manure transport that are not found with the hog industry.

In the Puget Sound, Wash. dairy and poultry manureshed, a variety of strategies will be required to transport

manure from the dairy and poultry industries that dominate the manureshed. However, most modern poultry manure management systems are better suited to the vision of distributing manure nutrients within a manureshed due to the dry nature of litters and belt-dried feces. In the case of dairy farming systems, many are land-extensive in comparison with other animal production systems.

Suburban expansion

However, in the Puget Sound area, topography and suburban expansion have helped to constrict the cropland area where manure can be recycled, shifting many potential sinks for manure nutrients to productive croplands in eastern Washington and Oregon.

High profile lawsuits in Yakimaw County – a candidate for within-county transfers of manure phosphorus in the Puget Sound manureshed – have intensified focus on dairy manure management in the region, from compliance with existing standards to innovations around processing liquid dairy manures.

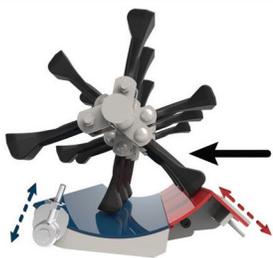
To enable transport of manure within the Puget Sound manureshed, the dairy industry in particular is challenged with the large fraction of liquid manure that it generates. Overall costs and compatibility of dewatering and solid separation technologies for dairy varies widely. Current dairy infrastructures and management strategies present farm-specific constraints upon the adoption of different technologies.

Vermicomposting liquid manure

Many larger dairy operations already separate solids from the manure stream

(See Nutrients, page 8)

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National Compost Prices

The prices listed below are intended to indicate the value of mature compost products sold by compost producers and retailers in noted regions. Prices listed are based on surveys and publicly posted prices.

Your input on published prices is encouraged. Contact Ken McEntee, editor, at (440) 238-6603. Fax: (440) 238-6712. EMail: ken@recycle.cc. Address: 9815 Hazelwood Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44149. Notes on listings.

- Each listing includes a high price obtained, a low price obtained and an average of all prices obtained within a particular market.

- Market areas: Thirteen market areas have been targeted to provide a cross section of compost product markets in

the U.S. Where regions are not identified by a specific city, "Chesapeake" refers to the region stretching between Norfolk, Va. to Baltimore, Md. "Texas" incorporates several major cities in the state. "Northwest" represents the Seattle and Portland, Ore areas. "SF-Bay" refers to the San Francisco Bay area. SoCal is Southern California, including the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. Denver includes Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.

- "Food waste" compost: This category refers to compost products that include food waste, regional specialties and other feedstocks not specifically covered in other categories.

- Manures: Chicken manures may include other poultry

manures, such as turkey and duck manure. Cow manures may include manures marketed as steer and dairy manure. Horse manure is included in this category as well.

- Absence of a regional listing within a given category indicates not enough information for a valid listing.

Additional data will be added as more information is obtained.

- Bulk retail prices do not include municipal operations that give compost away for free.

Bulk Retail (yard)

Yard waste compost	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 32.55	\$ 77.00	\$ 17.50
Chesapeake	\$ 24.50	\$ 30.00	\$ 17.00
SE	\$ 21.88	\$ 29.95	\$ 16.00
Florida	\$ 16.42	\$ 26.00	\$ 10.50
Cleveland	\$ 19.90	\$ 28.00	\$ 12.50
Iowa	\$ 21.57	\$ 53.00	\$ 7.50
Minneapolis	\$ 17.09	\$ 28.00	\$ 8.00
Texas	\$ 29.71	\$ 40.00	\$ 15.00
Denver	\$ 20.31	\$ 31.00	\$ 12.00
Northwest	\$ 24.05	\$ 55.00	\$ 10.00
SF-Bay	\$ 21.92	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.00
SoCal	\$ 14.75	\$ 24.00	\$ 8.00

Food waste compost	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 39.12	\$ 64.00	\$ 17.50
Chesapeake	\$ 23.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00
SE	\$ 28.11	\$ 35.00	\$ 24.00
Florida	\$ 17.50	\$ 22.00	\$ 13.00
Iowa	\$ 25.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 15.00
Minneapolis	\$ 12.33	\$ 16.00	\$ 9.00
Texas	\$ 30.21	\$ 48.95	\$ 15.00
Denver	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Northwest	\$ 20.55	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00
SF-Bay	\$ 23.61	\$ 38.00	\$ 14.00
SoCal	\$ 30.50	\$ 45.00	\$ 16.00

Leaf humus	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 24.98	\$ 30.00	\$ 19.95
Chesapeake	\$ 27.49	\$ 30.00	\$ 23.95
Cleveland	\$ 19.27	\$ 26.00	\$ 8.00

Composted biosolids	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00
Chesapeake	\$ 24.98	\$ 35.00	\$ 12.00
SE	\$ 12.14	\$ 28.00	\$ 4.00
Florida	\$ 13.14	\$ 22.00	\$ 8.00
Cleveland	\$ 24.77	\$ 30.00	\$ 19.50
Iowa	\$ 12.67	\$ 21.00	\$ 8.00
Texas	\$ 21.28	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.00
Denver	\$ 9.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 7.00
Northwest	\$ 17.91	\$ 26.00	\$ 7.00
SoCal	\$ 13.36	\$ 22.00	\$ 3.50

Composted chicken manure	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00
Chesapeake	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
SE	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00
Minneapolis	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00
Texas	\$ 37.23	\$ 47.50	\$ 26.95
Denver	\$ 25.65	\$ 28.00	\$ 24.00
SF-Bay	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00
SoCal	\$ 44.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 27.00

Composted cow manure	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 45.50	\$ 46.00	\$ 45.00
SE	\$ 31.33	\$ 45.00	\$ 12.00
Cleveland	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00
Iowa	\$ 42.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 16.00
Minneapolis	\$ 29.33	\$ 32.00	\$ 26.00
Texas	\$ 29.33	\$ 47.50	\$ 15.00
Denver	\$ 21.71	\$ 30.00	\$ 12.00
Phoenix	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Northwest	\$ 23.85	\$ 33.75	\$ 17.45

SF-Bay	\$ 26.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 26.00
SoCal	\$ 17.25	\$ 24.00	\$ 12.00

Wood waste mulch	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 21.35	\$ 38.00	\$ 12.50
Chesapeake	\$ 21.13	\$ 28.00	\$ 12.00
SE	\$ 18.78	\$ 34.95	\$ 12.00
Florida	\$ 17.50	\$ 18.00	\$ 17.00
Cleveland	\$ 25.56	\$ 36.25	\$ 14.00
Iowa	\$ 32.50	\$ 40.00	\$ 25.00
Minneapolis	\$ 26.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 20.00
Texas	\$ 16.19	\$ 27.00	\$ 9.00
Denver	\$ 18.74	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.48
Phoenix	\$ 17.61	\$ 22.95	\$ 10.00
Northwest	\$ 19.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 7.50
SF-Bay	\$ 18.14	\$ 30.00	\$ 8.00
SoCal	\$ 20.50	\$ 50.00	\$ 6.00

Colored wood mulch	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00
Chesapeake	\$ 28.67	\$ 33.00	\$ 25.00
SE	\$ 27.13	\$ 42.00	\$ 15.00
Florida	\$ 20.33	\$ 22.00	\$ 19.00
Cleveland	\$ 24.87	\$ 28.99	\$ 21.95
Iowa	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Minneapolis	\$ 36.80	\$ 49.00	\$ 30.00
Texas	\$ 26.08	\$ 32.50	\$ 18.00
Denver	\$ 33.28	\$ 33.28	\$ 33.28
Northwest	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
SF-Bay	\$ 34.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 28.00
SoCal	\$ 32.50	\$ 35.00	\$ 30.00

Bulk wholesale (yard)

Yard waste compost	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 21.50	\$ 48.00	\$ 11.00
Chesapeake	\$ 13.39	\$ 16.00	\$ 8.00
SE	\$ 16.66	\$ 25.00	\$ 8.65
Florida	\$ 9.75	\$ 13.00	\$ 8.00
Cleveland	\$ 12.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00
Iowa	\$ 14.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 8.00
Minneapolis	\$ 12.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 7.00
Texas	\$ 17.25	\$ 24.00	\$ 9.00
Denver	\$ 13.05	\$ 14.10	\$ 12.00
Northwest	\$ 14.79	\$ 35.00	\$ 7.50
SF-Bay	\$ 13.71	\$ 22.00	\$ 7.00
SoCal	\$ 7.33	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00

Food waste compost	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 25.79	\$ 48.00	\$ 11.00
Chesapeake	\$ 10.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 8.00
SE	\$ 20.65	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00
Florida	\$ 10.50	\$ 13.00	\$ 8.00
Iowa	\$ 13.40	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00
Minneapolis	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
Texas	\$ 17.50	\$ 24.00	\$ 8.50
Denver	\$ 11.33	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.00
Northwest	\$ 17.25	\$ 20.00	\$ 15.00
SF-Bay	\$ 12.67	\$ 26.00	\$ 5.00

Composted biosolids	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 15.33	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00
Chesapeake	\$ 9.31	\$ 15.00	\$ 5.00
SE	\$ 10.93	\$ 15.00	\$ 5.00
Florida	\$ 10.50	\$ 13.00	\$ 8.00
Texas	\$ 15.99	\$ 20.00	\$ 9.00

Denver	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00
Northwest	\$ 16.75	\$ 21.00	\$ 12.00
SoCal	\$ 10.50	\$ 17.00	\$ 3.00

Composted cow manure	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 36.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 36.00
SE	\$ 21.38	\$ 31.50	\$ 7.00
Iowa	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
Texas	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Denver	\$ 12.05	\$ 14.10	\$ 10.00
Northwest	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00
SF-Bay	\$ 34.25	\$ 34.50	\$ 34.00
SoCal	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 4.00

Wood waste mulch	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 15.75	\$ 33.00	\$ 8.00
Chesapeake	\$ 15.80	\$ 17.00	\$ 13.00
SE	\$ 14.60	\$ 24.95	\$ 5.00
Florida	\$ 14.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 13.00
Iowa	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00
Minneapolis	\$ 18.50	\$ 20.00	\$ 17.00
Texas	\$ 10.83	\$ 14.00	\$ 8.00
Denver	\$ 7.66	\$ 8.32	\$ 7.00
Northwest	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
SF-Bay	\$ 12.33	\$ 14.00	\$ 9.00
SoCal	\$ 9.25	\$ 15.00	\$ 5.00

Colored wood mulch	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00
Chesapeake	\$ 20.50	\$ 22.00	\$ 19.00
SE	\$ 19.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 15.00
Florida	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00
Iowa	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Minneapolis	\$ 27.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 19.00
Texas	\$ 20.67	\$ 24.00	\$ 18.00
Denver	\$ 17.66	\$ 21.32	\$ 14.00
Northwest	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00
SF-Bay	\$ 21.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 19.00
SoCal	\$ 22.50	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.00

Bag Retail

Compost (40# bag)	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 6.87	\$ 8.00	\$ 4.50
Chesapeake	\$ 3.73	\$ 5.49	\$ 2.15
SE	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
Iowa	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.99
Cleveland	\$ 2.45	\$ 2.99	\$ 2.10
Iowa	\$ 3.12	\$ 7.99	\$ 1.50
Texas	\$ 4.25	\$ 6.99	\$ 1.99
Denver	\$ 3.59	\$ 4.75	\$ 1.73
Phoenix	\$ 4.71	\$ 5.99	\$ 2.77
Northwest	\$ 4.29	\$ 5.99	\$ 2.99
SoCal	\$ 5.39	\$ 6.25	\$ 3.90

Composted cow manure(40#bag)	Average	High	Low
NE	\$ 6.53	\$ 9.87	\$ 3.85
Chesapeake	\$ 5.97	\$ 7.95	\$ 3.99
SE	\$ 5.16	\$ 6.97	\$ 3.34
Florida	\$ 1.98	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.97
Cleveland	\$ 3.27	\$ 3.99	\$ 2.49
Iowa	\$ 2.18	\$ 2.49	\$ 1.75
Minneapolis	\$ 3.70	\$ 7.00	\$ 1.99
Texas	\$ 4.59	\$ 6.99	\$ 1.99
Phoenix	\$ 2.99	\$ 3.99	\$ 2.49
Northwest	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.99
SF-Bay	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00

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Manure

Nutrients

From page 5

for reuse as bedding in cattle housing, although the nutrient content of these separated solids is generally less than half of the total content of the manure, with most phosphorus and nitrogen associated with remaining fractions. A variety of liquid manure processing technologies have been tested on Washington’s dairies, from energy-intensive distillation filters to vermicomposting systems, all of which offer opportunity to export manure solids.

Researchers said substantial similarities exist in manure management of the beef and dairy production systems of the Southern Plains manured.

Dairies are constructed around open lots or, in some cases, Saudi barns, with manure management more resembling beef feedlots of the region than the dairies in more humid regions.

Most manure from confined beef cattle in the U.S. is the product of a geographically extensive supply chain connecting grazing lands to feedlots concentrated in states with ready access to rail and truck transport of cereal grain and grain byproduct. About 70 percent of U.S. beef cattle are transported, also by truck, to be finished in feedlots in Texas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

Composting improves export potential

Historically, distant export of manure from both beef and dairy feedlots has been limited, as has manure-spreadable cropland contained within the largest feedlot farms that account for the majority of beef finishing.

Nonetheless, a large fraction of feedlot manure is in dry form favorable for off-site transport, especially in this region. Composting has been a preferred means of further improving export potential for dry feedlot manure, as it reduces nuisance odors and pests. Precedent exists for profitable contractual efforts

that oversee composting and marketing of composted material. A variety of options for improving the value of feedlot manure have been explored, but an abundance of feedlot manure and limited markets within reasonable transport distance have deterred manure transport along the Southern Plains region’s well-established distribution networks.



You can view the full research paper at <https://tinyurl.com/y937vv9r> or scan the above QR code with your mobile device.

ARS is the USDA’s chief scientific in-house research agency.

Grants

Carbon

From page 1

coordination with the California Air Resources Board and U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. In total, 27 management practices that sequester carbon are now included in the program. Eligible practices are categorized based on agricultural systems where they can be implemented.

“As the Healthy Soils program continues to grow, new and innovative contributions from our stakeholders are critical to ensuring that farmers and ranchers have the diversity of practices they need to produce the wide range of highly nutritious, affordable and safe food crops,” said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. “Improving soil health in California must be a collaborative effort between CDFA, stakeholder groups, sister agencies and federal partners.”

CDFA’s program stems from the California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration between state agencies to support the development of healthy soils in California. By providing funds to incentivize management practices and on-farm demonstration projects, HSP helps build soil organic carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs) and enhance soil health.

There are several important requirements needed to submit a management practice for consideration in the HSP. Proposal requirements, process for consideration and other details on the submission process can be found on the Healthy Soils webpage.

The 27 eligible management practices that sequester carbon are divided into three categories:

- Cropland;
- Orchard or vineyard;
- Grazing land

Specifically, the 27 management practices are:

Cropland

Alley cropping;

- Compost application - Compost purchased from a certified facility and on-farm produced compost;
- Conservation cover;
- Conservation crop rotation;
- Contour buffer strips;
- Cover crop;
- Field border;
- Filter strip;
- Forage and biomass planting;
- Grassed waterway;
- Hedgerow planting;
- Herbaceous wind barrier;
- Mulching;
- Multi-story cropping;
- Nutrient management
- Residue and tillage management – no till;
- Residue and tillage management - reduced till;
- Riparian forest buffer;
- Riparian herbaceous cover;
- Strip cropping;
- Tree/shrub establishment;
- Vegetative barriers;
- Windbreak/shelterbelt establishment.

Orchard or Vineyard

- Compost Application - Compost purchased from a certified facility and on-farm produced compost;
- Conservation cover;
- Cover crop;
- Filter strip;
- Mulching;

(See Carbon, page 13)

Product/Equipment and Services Guide



Featuring the industry's leading vendors. This listing of the industry's leading vendors of products, equipment and services essential to the compost manufacturing, wood recycling and organics management business also is available online at compostingnews.com. Scan the QR code with your mobile device to go there. If your business is not listed, please contact ken@compostingnews.com.

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Anaerobic digestion



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In-Vessel Composting



Ag-Bag Environmental

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Contact: Debbie Linder
dlinder@ag-bagfs.com

Mulch Coloring Systems



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Screening Systems & Trommels



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Shredders



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Thermometers & Monitoring Equipment



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Product/Equipment and Services Guide



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Contact:
Tim Wenger, VP, Sales Mgr.
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Windrow Turners



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Wood Grinders - Horizontal



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Product/Equipment and Services Guide

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Contact: Patrick Lorenz
info@westsalem.com

Wood Grinders - Tub



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Grants

Carbon

From page 1

- Hedgerow planting;
- Nutrient Management (15 percent reduction in fertilizer application only);
- Residue and tillage management – no till;
- Residue and tillage management - reduced till;
- Whole orchard recycling;
- Windbreak/shelterbelt establishment.

Grazing Land

- Compost application - Compost purchased from a certified facility and on-farm produced compost;
- Hedgerow planting;
- Prescribed grazing;
- Range planting;
- Riparian forest buffer;
- Silvopasture;
- Tree/shrub establishment;
- Windbreak/shelterbelt establishment.

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. PDT on August 28, 2020 submitted via email to cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov.

Biochar

Development

From page 1

pathway to sustainable bioenergy with carbon sequestration. It's a beautiful story and more people need to know about it, but it is also a complex story that takes a while to understand."

The organization said North American biochar suppliers need help telling the story of biochar to potential investors and customers. Farmers, gardeners, foresters, landscaper and other end users of biochar products need to understand the benefits and costs of biochar, and how best to apply biochar and get the most out of it. Educators and enthusiasts need reliable, vetted information, so they can communicate the promise of biochar to decision makers and future generations.

Over the past decade, USBI said, it has organized conferences, met with

decision makers, networked across industries and supported the biochar industry in the U.S. and North America.

By raising \$175,000, the organization said it will be able to:

- Hire people to do the work. "We need to bring on paid staff to do the work of communications, content creation, development and program management," USBI said;
- Pay the bills for its website and other communications tools;
- Cover travel and administrative expenses.

USBI said donors can support the organization at the following levels:

- Major Donor. "We need several dozen large gifts of \$1,000, \$5000, \$10,000 or more to meet our goal. Please consider all the benefits of a strong USBI – committed to developing and promoting the biochar industry in North America – and contribute accordingly," the organization said.
- Sustaining Donor. "We need a few hundred people to commit to providing a monthly donation of \$10 to \$100 a month. Monthly giving is easier to manage for you, and it provides a reliable income source for the USBI," USBI said.

Over the next six months, USBI said it intends to begin a comprehensive survey of all of the available and accessible information on biochar applications.

"We find that there is much quality information from extension services and knowledgeable individuals, but there is also a lot of questionable information that is not helpful," USBI said. "Our board and other experts will vet information for accuracy, then we will create an indexed resource library on the USBI website with links. This will become a very helpful tool for biochar users and for biochar suppliers - those of you who are looking for quality information to share with your customers."

USBI also plans to identify gaps in existing educational resources and close them by creating new resources to share with its network.

USBI has applied for a grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Service to conduct on-farm biochar demonstration trials with more than 100 farmers and 60 biochar producers from all over the country.

The organization also is planning a demonstration tour of a new biochar burner technology developed by the U.S. Forest Service and Air Burners Inc. and is working to identify North American testing labs that can quickly and reliably analyze biochar samples.

- Other upcoming plans include:
- Hope to plan another USBI conference or, alternatively, a set of regional meetings in 2021.
 - Continually expanding conversations with policy makers and state and federal agencies, such as the USDA, on how to best support the biochar industry.
 - Broaden successful cross-industry networking strategy, bringing biochar information to allied industries, such as organic waste management, bioenergy, forestry, conservation and

(See Development, page 14)

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Biochar

Development

From page 13

others.

- Work closely with regional biochar organizations, like the Sonoma Biochar Initiative and the Eastern Biochar Association, to pool resources and to accomplish more for the biochar industry.

The USBI board consists of Executive Director Tom Miles, Treasurer Ron Larson and Kim Chaffee, fundraising committee chair, along with Albert Bates, Kelpie Wilson, Josiah Hunt, Kathleen Draper, Kristin Trippe, Heather Nobert, Chuck Hegberg and Isabel Lima.

You can get more information at <https://biochar-us.org/about-us>

because it's time-consuming or messy, Keima Kamara, a solid waste specialist with the **Oklahoma State University** Extension, told Discover. "But your discarded veggies can build up healthy soils and reduce greenhouse gas emissions with minimal personal oversight, depending on the method you choose."

Sprinkling the material over food plots also anchors down soil and prevents it from washing or blowing away. Construction sites deal with erosion, too, which is why some agencies recently started experimenting with roadwork compost embankments, Kamara said, noting that for two years, the **Connecticut** Department of Transportation laid down thick stretches of compost near digging projects and found that the material absorbed water and kept dirt from running off as trees and shrubbery grew back.

City programs often offer curbside compost bins alongside recycling and garbage programs to haul household food waste to massive composting centers.

These facilities rely on heavy machinery to move and flip around all the scraps. And they're typically regulated to ensure they don't stink up local neighborhoods or leak fluids into water supplies, Discover said.

Ideally, large municipal composting programs sell their compost to farms or vineyards, as **San Francisco's** composting system has managed to do.

But that hinges on producing enough compost to sell and profit from — something New York City has struggled with.

Coronavirus-related budget cuts pushed New York to pause all compost collection as of May 4. Smaller programs and private organizations generate compost with and for local communities.

LA Compost, a non-profit in **Los Angeles**, runs collaborative compost piles in 30 locations across the city and teaches people how to start their own backyard system. - *Discover*, www.discovermagazine.com

The **Colorado** Department of Public Health and Environment granted more

than \$101,000 to Table to Farm Compost to help achieve the state's waste reduction goals, but also to create a soil that supports resilient farms and healthier people.

The state aims to divert 28 percent of solid waste from landfills into composting or recycling operations by 2021. The soil created by Table to Farm Compost is delivered to local farms that grow organic produce, keeping the money in the community.

Table to Farm Compost used the grant to purchase new equipment that will help make their work more efficient as well as handle a larger array of compostable items, such as glass. Owners Monique DiGiorgio and Taylor Hanson can now grind, mix, sift and bag their compost by machine. DiGiorgio said ground-up glass is a great addition to their artisanal soil, and perfectly safe.

Table to Farm Compost opened in Durango four years ago. It has since grown to 340 customers who pay \$18 per month to compost a five-gallon bucket of scraps with Table to Farm.

In December, Table to Farm partnered with an Albertsons supermarket to increase the amount of food waste it composted. - *The Durango Herald*, durangoherald.com

- In **New York City**, Upper West Siders and others throughout the city have come together to reinstate funding for composting after extreme budget cuts due to Covid-19. The New York City Department of Sanitation halted organics pick-up on May 4 and the budget for Fiscal Year 2021 - which starts July 1 - removes all funding for The Compost Project and Grow NYC's Zero Waste Program.

A petition on change.org to reinstate composting in NYC has already received more than 19,000 signatures. A group called #saveourcompost has been encouraging people to contact their council members to agitate for more funding.

Some residents compost at home using indoor bins with worms or outdoor bins, but many don't have the resources to compost without the city's program.



- On July 1, everyone in **Vermont** is required to stop putting their food scraps in the trash. This is the final step in a universal recycling law passed in 2012 to reduce the amount of waste going into landfills. All food waste will need to be composted instead.

Paul Garland, owner of Garland's Farm and Garden, in Rutland, said he has sold bins for home composting for years, but this year, interest has more than doubled because of the new law.

Josh Kelly, of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation says it's important to consider the best food scraps management option for you. If you're not interested in composting at home there are 100 transfer stations and food scrap drops-off around the state. - *WCAZ-TV3*, www.wcax.com

- Cities are eliminating excuses to skip on composting, *Discover Magazine* reported.

Potential composters might shy away from separating out their food scraps

Jeff Twine, president of Upper West Side Recycling, and other residents testified at a City Council hearing on June 15 in favor of reinstating funding and the Community Organics and Recycling Empowerment (CORE) Act.

In 2019 DSNY collected a daily average of 307,000 pounds of organics for composting. Now that the program has been cut, the waste is either shipped to a removal center and burned or landfilled.

The Compost Project funds community composting facilities such as Earth Matter NY, Lower East Side Ecology and Big Reuse. In addition, it provides compost distribution and 170 food scrap drop-off sites. The two programs relied on \$7 million of funding from the New York City budget, and community members are lobbying to get that funding back.

Meanwhile, City Council members have introduced the CORE Act, which would provide 177 community recycling centers across the city operating 20 hours a week. - *West Side Rag*, www.westsiderag.com

- The **Oneida-Herkimer (N.Y.)** Solid Waste Authority has resumed selling yard and green waste compost is now available in bulk and in bags. The authority's 13 acre green waste compost facility opened in 1994 and serves 17 municipalities and private haulers, businesses, institutions and landscapers.

Its compost has been certified by the U.S. Composting Council under its Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program as consistent, high-quality compost.

The finished compost is made entirely from processed brush, leaves and grass clippings, fully cured and screened to a half-inch. No sewage sludge or solid wastes are included.

Screened, cured compost is available for \$15 per cubic yard loaded in a dump truck, or \$2 per bag, or three bags for \$5. - *The Rome Sentinel*, romesentinel.com

- A dispute over a local composting operation in **North Smithfield, R.I.** is headed for the town Zoning Board after the owner, Frank Jacques, appealed a cease-and-desist order issued by the town in January. The order was issued after neighbors repeatedly complained that The Compost Plant was creating an overwhelming smell in the neighborhood.

The order accuses Jacques and a subcontractor of illegally dumping food scraps and other materials in violation of the town's zoning ordinance. Jacques has appealed the order, defending his composting business as a legally protected use under state law.

The dispute taps into a long-running argument about what constitutes "agriculture" and what kinds of farming operations should be allowed in residential areas. Jacques maintains his composting business is protected under the Right to Farm Act, a state law that protects farmers from nuisance complaints by neighbors.

The Right to Farm Act has existed since the 1980s, when suburban development was seen as a threat to traditional farming operations. But neighbors of the composting site

don't think it should qualify for protection under the state law.

"You could argue that every land around here was a farm at one time," one resident told the Valley Breeze.

Jacques said he's been subject to repeated inspections by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and U.S. Department of Agriculture over the years and has never run into problems with state or federal officials. - *The Valley Breeze*, www.valleybreeze.com.

- Perennial City Composting has been composting chicken manure on a two-acre farm in North St. Louis, Mo. farm for more than two years. Neighbors want the operation shut down because of odors. One neighbor said it smells so bad that he can't open his windows.

City inspectors didn't find any offensive odors. But Department of Health officials say there are about 80 chickens on Perennial City Composting's farm, which has four parcels. St. Louis residents are allowed to have up to eight chickens per lot. The Department of Health Animal Care and Control officers cited owner Tim Kiefer for having too many.

He and his wife founded Perennial City Composting to help St. Louis-area residents and restaurants compost food scraps. They planned to allow neighbors to build community gardens and teach them how to prune fruit trees and other valuable agriculture skills, he said. - *St. Louis Public Radio*, news.stlpublicradio.org



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