



Independent coverage of composting, wood recycling and organics management



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Value questions challenge compost demand

Farmers, landscapers and greenhouse and nursery operators are familiar with compost but many are strongly reluctant to use it because they don't see its value, according to a recent study of compost markets in Michigan.

The study, *An Assessment of Manure-based Compost Markets in Michigan*, done by the Michigan State University Extension, noted opportunities to change the perceived value of compost.

The study's author, MSU Extension Educator Charles Gould, said the goal of



An Assessment of Manure-based Compost Markets in Michigan

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manure and other agricultural byproducts to increase farm income by selling compost to consumers. The study

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U.S. organic food sales reach new record of 56 billion in 2020

In almost every organic food aisle, demand jumped by near-record levels, propelling U.S. organic food sales in 2020 up a record 12.8 percent to a new high of \$56.4 billion, the Organic Trade Association (OTA) reported.

In 2020, almost 6 percent of the food sold in the U.S. was certified organic, OTA said in releasing its 2021 Organic Industry Survey. OTA said the pandemic last year caused consumer dollars to shift almost overnight from restaurants and carry-out to groceries, with traditional staples and pantry and freezer items flying off the shelves. Consumer habits were upended, online grocery shopping and grocery deliveries exploded and new products were tried as families ate three meals a day at home.

"Good, healthy food has never been more important, and consumers have increasingly sought out the organic label," said Laura Batcha, CEO and executive



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New composting coalition seeks expanded infrastructure

A group of stakeholders from the organics recycling and sustainable materials communities has launched the U.S. Composting Infrastructure Coalition to support innovative and responsible waste reduction and recovery solutions like composting.

The coalition, which includes seven member organizations and six advisor organizations, believes composting serves as an opportunity to address key environmental challenges and deliver positive economic impacts to people and communities.

The coalition advocates for policies, legislation and other measures to expand composting programs and increase access to robust programs that divert food waste, yard trimmings and certified compostable packaging.

Founding coalition members and

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Highlights

- n Food waste not a major biogas feedstock in Wisconsin
- n National compost prices

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