



Independent coverage of composting, wood recycling and organics management

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Composters considered for fertilizer grants

By Ken McEntee

At least six of 21 applicants for grants through the USDA's Fertilizer Production Expansion Program (FPEP) include composting, anaerobic digestion or other organic method in their applications.

At this month's annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Tom Vilsack, secretary of agriculture, said USDA is moving forward with the FPEP program, which was announced in September.

Vilsack said USDA will soon begin to accept public comments on environmental and related aspects of 21 potentially viable projects to increase fertilizer production across the U.S.

The applicants have requested grant funding through the first round of FPEP. USDA said the program aims to invest in

(See Fertilizer, page 5)



Nest thermostat founder looks to take food waste digital

The co-founder of Nest Labs, the smartphone-based home thermostat company now owned by Google, has introduced an internet-connected kitchen food waste processor. Matt Rogers, who was one of the first engineers on the Apple team that developed the iPhone before co-founding Nest, is now co-founder of Mill, which this month launched a membership-based service that provides a kitchen bin that "dries, shrinks and de-stinks" kitchen scraps overnight, turning them into nutrient-rich "food grounds." When the bin is full—which takes a few weeks—members use a smartphone app to schedule a pickup. The grounds are delivered to Mill, which converts them into a chicken feed ingredient. According to Mill's web page, the company isn't yet sure how that process is going to work.



"We're working through the necessary scientific and regulatory processes to turn your

(See Kitchen, page 8)

New biogas firm will focus on food waste, manure

PlanET Biogas, St. Catherines, Ontario, said it has created PlanET Organics, a new company specifically focused on food waste processing and nutrient recovery technologies. The new company is the result of PlanET Biogas' "ongoing successful delivery of anaerobic digesters (AD) and renewable natural gas (RNG) technology into the North American market," the company said.

"This complementary platform will enhance PlanET's leadership position in the organics to renewable energy market and help it execute both manure based

and complex food waste projects in the U.S. and Canada," it said.

Mike Muffels, formerly of GHD, Brossard, Québec, will head the venture as program director of organics. David Thompson, formerly of Walker Industries, Niagara Falls, Ontario, has

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Highlights

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