Independent coverage of composting, wood recycling and organics management

Composting Men McCntee Media February 2024 Volume 32 Number 12

Synagro sued over PFAS contaminated farms

vive Texas farmers have filed a lawsuit against Synagro Technologies Inc. and Synagro of Texas-CDR, headquartered in Baltimore, claiming that their farms were contaminated by toxic chemicals in Synagro's biosolids-based fertilizer that a neighboring farmer spread on his crops.

In addition to devastating damage to their livestock and land, plaintiffs allege that exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkl substances (PFAS) through Synagro's Granulite fertilizer has caused them significant health consequences.

According to the suit, in November 2022, Synagro Granulite was left in "smoking" piles smelling like "death and sewage" at a property near Grandview, Texas. The piles weren't mixed into the soils until mid-January 2023. Plaintiffs who live, work and own property adjacent to the property complained of the smells

(See Synagro, page 6)



The manure lobby: Farmer fury in Europe **By Paul Schwennesen**

t started in earnest in Holland last year. Now, thousands of farmers are blocking the streets of Paris, and thousands more are torching tires in Brussels. The movement, which might be fairly termed a popular uprising, has spread across Europe, from the borders of Ukraine to the shores of the Greek Isles. As uprisings go, it's fairly genteel - the main objective seems to be to generate enough media coverage to get the attention of parliaments. Nevertheless, the angst is real, and stems fundamentally from excessive government meddling.

Though there are a variety of complaints, the common element to them all is pent-up frustration with the level of centralized regulations affecting day-to-day farm life.

According to a Dutch farmer I spoke to, "because of the government's demands, farmers are getting into trouble. It's nowhere as stupid as in the Netherlands."

He may be right, but it's a sentiment shared across the continent. Farmers EU-wide are annoyed at rules that arbitrarily require fallowing 4 percent of

December 18. 2023



Compost increases almond yield

pplication of compost to California almond orchards resulted in a strong increase in yield according to research presented at Compost2024-the annual conference of the U.S. Composting Council, held January 27-30, in Daytona Beach.

The research was presented by Alexia Cooper, an environmental systems graduate researcher at University of California, Merced. Her current research involves assessing the effects of compost

and cover crops in nut orchard systems within California's Central Valley. Cooper said California produces 13% of the food

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- National compost prices

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Research

Almonds

From page 3

in the U.S., including 80% of the world's almonds. She said the expansion of almond production in California has led to heightened concerns about the environmental impact of conventional agricultural practices on soil health, water quality and ecosystem sustainability.

A five-year study, currently in year three, is being conducted in commercial almond orchards and focuses on the dynamics of nitrogen availability, variations in soil carbon content, microbial activity and the subsequent effects on tree health due to the application of compost and cover crop practices.

"The research question we had was, can compost and cover crops improve soil health in orchards, and then, does this result in improvements to tree health and yields," Cooper said. "One of the main goals for the orchards we worked with was to reduce risks and barriers in adopting new practices by conducting site specific trials and compensating the participating farmers."

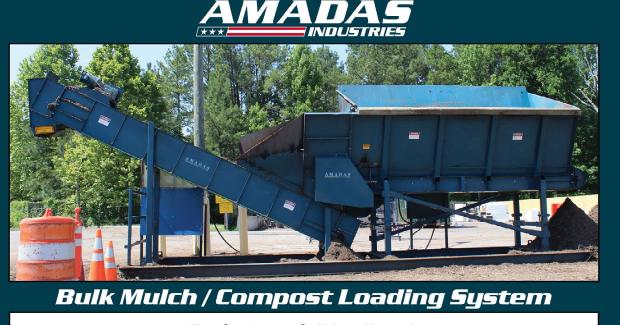
In the project, compost and cover crops were integrated. A "soil builder" mix was incorporated with the goal of decreasing soil compaction and increasing water availability to decrease soil evaporation, then to improve chemical, biological and physical soil health indices. Cover crops were seeded in November each year right before the area's wet season at a rate of 75 pounds per acre.

Compost-application test sites utilized Synagro AllGro, incorporated at eight tons per acre.

"We applied it to both alleys and berms, which is a novel practice for California," Cooper said. "Often, if they do apply compost, it's only to the berms. But after looking at these orchard sites, we saw that almost a third of the site was alley. So we wanted to apply compost there because that actually has a pretty big impact on where trees uptake water. The carbon content of the compost was 27%, the nitrogen content 3.3% and [carbon to nitrogen ratio] of eight to one, which is pretty desirable to quickly provide available nitrogen for our experimental design."

In conventional orchard management, herbicides are applied to get rid of all vegetation in the alleys of the orchards.

"The main input of nutrients is from the nitrate fertilizer and if that nitrate isn't not immediately taken up by the trees, we have nitrate leaching which can have negative effects for human health and ecological health," Cooper said. "In the conventional orchard management, some of the soil conditions that we were



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seeing was very low microbial activity, low soil organic matter, high compaction and very low water holding capacity."

In the integrative soil health management testing, compost added organic matter to the soil.

"The soil organic matter has inorganic and organic forms of nitrogen, but it requires microbial mediation to make it into ammonium," Cooper said. "So we have this mineralization process to create an ammonium pool, which is less mobile in the soil than nitrate. The cover crops can then biologically fix nitrogen with the types of legumes that we have."

After the first year, a slight increase in microbial biomass was seen across all test sites.

"In year two, it seems like a much stronger result," she said. "This increase in microbial biomass nitrogen suggests heightened microbial mediated nitrogen cycling processes. ... In year one, we saw an immediate availability increase in ammonium, which is sustained throughout the growing season.

In year two, we see even a higher spike in ammonium availability, which was really exciting to see such strong results. For nitrate, we were concerned if we're applying compost, are we seeing higher nitrates too? We didn't find that."

Significantly, Cooper said, the testing showed a strong increase in yields of "fifth leaf almonds."

"In the first year we saw a really small increase in 2022 but this last year we saw a 102% increase, resulting in about a six pound per tree increase, which was really exciting," Cooper said.

Cooper said California is experiencing intense flooding and current almond orchard management systems have decreased the crop's resilience and has resulted in declining soil health.

"We're facing issues of compaction, soilerosion and the effects of high inputs of NPK, which then are causing high nitrate levels in California's waters, which not only have effects to human health, but also ecological health," she said. "It doesn't have to be the way it is. There is an alternative path for adopting integrative soil health practices that is more regeneratively functioning. We hope that these initiatives we can foster increased tree health, productivity and resiliency to climate change."

Agriculture

Farmers

From page 1

their land, frustrated with government toying with diesel prices, mismanaged Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) heavy-handed payments and regulations environmental like mandatory nitrogen reductions. All these can be laid at the feet of meddling bureaucrats who have been attempting to micromanage the agricultural sector for decades. National Public Radio reports that French farmers feel that "too much regulation has lowered profits" and that they are at a "disadvantage compared to other farmers in the EU."

Ever-shifting regulations on organic certification and climate change have driven average farmers bonkers.

In Germany, farmers dumped manure in the streets of Berlin, starting a trend that has made manure dumping and spraying a poignant (and no doubt pungent) publicity move. Protesters in Brussels have doubled the advertising power by adding thousands of pages of EU farm regulations into straw choppers and manure spreaders to bury the perimeter fences of EU admin buildings. Tired of the regulatory horseshit, they are replying in-kind with a slurry of bullshit, cow shit, pig shit and more.

Thomas Jefferson, who "liked a little rebellion now and then," believed that the blood of patriots and tyrants was the "natural manure" for the Tree of Liberty. It's better, of course, that European farmers are using actual manure to make their point, but it remains to be seen whether this kind of publicity display will lead to a substantive shift in the trajectory of over-regulation.

Regulations on farmers have been steadily growing since 1962 when the CAP was introduced. It's aims at the time seemed reasonable enough (as programs invariably do) and were listed as follows:



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increasing agricultural productivity;

• ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers;

• guaranteeing the availability of supplies;

• stabilizing the markets;

• establishing a secure supply chain with reasonable prices;

• harmonizing competition rules across all countries.

But as usual with innocuous-sounding government schemes, it is how these ambitions were to be achieved that bears scrutiny. And, in fact, the EU embarked on an extensive program of state control of agriculture: "to achieve these goals, an economic system of price and market support was put in place. This mechanism provided farmers with a guaranteed price for their products, introduced tariffs on external products and introduced state intervention in case market prices fell. Farmers received support according to their total levels of production."

In short, CAP severed the farming sectorfrom open-market signals, thereby

(See Farmers, page 5)

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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 producers and retailers in noted regions. Prices its 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@compostingnews.com. 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.

Bulk Retail (yard)

Yard waste compost NE Chesapeake SE Florida Cleveland Iowa Minneapolis Texas Denver Northwest SF-Bay SoCal	Average \$ 32.55 \$ 24.50 \$ 21.88 \$ 16.42 \$ 19.90 \$ 21.57 \$ 17.09 \$ 29.71 \$ 20.31 \$ 24.05 \$ 21.92 \$ 14.75	High \$ 77.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 29.95 \$ 26.00 \$ 28.00 \$ 28.00 \$ 28.00 \$ 28.00 \$ 31.00 \$ 55.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 24.00 \$ 24.00	Low \$ 17.50 \$ 17.00 \$ 16.00 \$ 10.50 \$ 12.50 \$ 7.50 \$ 8.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 2.00 \$ 2
Food waste compost NE Chesapeake SE Florida Iowa Minneapolis Texas Denver Northwest SF-Bay SoCal	Average \$ 39.12 \$ 23.00 \$ 28.11 \$ 17.50 \$ 25.00 \$ 12.33 \$ 30.21 \$ 15.00 \$ 20.55 \$ 23.61 \$ 30.50	High \$ 64.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 35.00 \$ 22.00 \$ 65.00 \$ 16.00 \$ 48.95 \$ 15.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 38.00 \$ 45.00	Low \$ 17.50 \$ 15.00 \$ 24.00 \$ 13.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 16.00
Leaf humus NE Chesapeake Cleveland	Average \$ 24.98 \$ 27.49 \$ 19.27	High \$ 30.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 26.00	Low \$ 19.95 \$ 23.95 \$ 8.00
Composted biosolids NE Chesapeake SE Florida Cleveland Iowa Texas Denver Northwest SoCal	Average \$ 30.00 \$ 24.98 \$ 12.14 \$ 13.14 \$ 24.77 \$ 12.67 \$ 21.28 \$ 9.00 \$ 17.91 \$ 13.36	High \$ 40.00 \$ 35.00 \$ 28.00 \$ 22.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 21.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 26.00 \$ 22.00	Low \$ 20.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 4.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 19.50 \$ 8.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 7.00 \$ 7.00 \$ 3.50
Composted chicken r NE Chesapeake SE Minneapolis Texas Denver SF-Bay SoCal	manure A \$ 45.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 42.00 \$ 17.00 \$ 37.23 \$ 25.65 \$ 16.00 \$ 44.00	verage H \$ 50.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 42.00 \$ 17.00 \$ 47.50 \$ 28.00 \$ 16.00 \$ 75.00	\$ 40.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 42.00 \$ 17.00 \$ 26.95 \$ 24.00 \$ 16.00
Composted cow man NE SE Cleveland Iowa Minneapolis Texas Denver Phoenix Northwest SF-Bay SoCal	\$ 45.50 \$ 31.33 \$ 24.00 \$ 42.00 \$ 29.33 \$ 29.33 \$ 21.71 \$ 20.00 \$ 23.85 \$ 26.00 \$ 17.25	ge High \$ 46.00 \$ 45.00 \$ 24.00 \$ 60.00 \$ 32.00 \$ 47.50 \$ 30.00 \$ 33.75 \$ 26.00 \$ 24.00	Low \$ 45.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 24.00 \$ 16.00 \$ 16.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 20.00 \$ 17.45 \$ 26.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 12.00

 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 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

Wood waste mulchAverageNE\$ 21.35Chesapeake\$ 21.13SE\$ 18.78SE\$ 18.78 High Low \$ 12.50 \$ 12.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 17.00 \$ 14.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 20.00 38.00 \$ 28.00 \$ \$ 34.95 \$ 17.50 \$ 25.56 \$ 32.50 18.00 36.25 Florida \$ Cleveland \$ \$ 40.00 Iowa \$ 26.00 \$ 16.19 \$ 18.74 \$ 35.00 \$ 27.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 20.00 \$ 9.00 \$ 12.48 Minneapolis Texas Denver \$ 10.00 \$ 7.50 \$ 8.00 \$ 6.00 22.95 \$ 17.61 \$ 19.00 \$ 18.14 Phoenix \$\$\$ Northwest 30.00 SF-Bay SoCal \$ 50.00 \$ 20.50 Colored wood mulch Average High Low \$ 28.00 \$ 28.67 \$ 27.13 \$ 20.33 \$ 24.87 \$ 30.00 \$ 36.80 \$ 26.08 \$ 33.28 \$ 33.28 \$ 28.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 19.00 \$ 21.95 \$ 30.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 18.00 \$ 33.28 \$ 35.00 \$ 28.00 \$ 30.00 NE 28.00 Chesapeake 33.00 SE 42.00 \$ 22.00 \$ 28.99 \$ 30.00 Florida Cleveland Iowa \$ 30.00 \$ 49.00 \$ 32.50 \$ 33.28 \$ 35.00 \$ 36.00 \$ 35.00 Minneapolis Texas Denver \$ 35.00 \$ 34.00 \$ 32.50 Northwest SF-Bay SoCal Bulk wholesale (yard) Yard waste compost Average NE \$ 21.50 Chesapeake \$ 13.39 High Low LOW \$ 11.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 8.65 \$ 8.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 7.00 \$ 9.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 48.00 \$ 16.00 \$ 16.66 \$ 9.75 \$ 12.50 \$ 25.00[°] SE 13.00 Florida \$ 13.00 \$ 15.00 Cleveland \$ 14.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 17.25 \$ 19.00 Iowa 17.00 Minneapolis \$ \$ 24.00 Texas \$ 9.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 7.50 \$ 7.00 \$ 6.00 \$ 13.05 \$ 14.10 Denver \$ 14.79 \$ 13.71 \$ Northwest 35.00 22.00 SF-Bay SoCal \$ 7.33 \$ 10.00 Food waste compost Average High Low NE \$ 25.79 \$ 10.50 \$ 20.65 48.00 15.00 \$ \$ 11.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 15.00 Chesapeake \$ 30.00 SE \$ 20.05 \$ 10.50 \$ 13.40 \$ 12.00 \$ 17.50 \$ 11.33 \$ 17.25 \$ 8.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 12.00 Florida 13.00 Iowa 20.00 Minneapolis 12.00 \$ 24.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 20.00 \$ 26.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 8.50 \$ 7.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 5.00 Texas Denver Northwest SF-Bay \$ 12.67 Composted biosolids Average High Low \$ 10.00 \$ 5.00 \$ 5.00 \$ 5.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 9.00 \$ 13.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 3.00 \$ 15.33 \$ 9.31 20.00 NE \$ \$ 15.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 13.00 \$ 20.00 \$ 13.00 \$ 21.00 \$ 17.00 Chesapeake \$ 10.93 \$ 10.50 \$ 15.99 \$ 13.00 SE Florida Texas Denver \$ 16.75 Northwest \$ 10.50 SoCal

specialities 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.

Composted cow main NE SE Iowa Texas Denver Northwest SF-Bay SoCal	nure Avera \$ 36.00 \$ 21.38 \$ 35.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 12.05 \$ 22.00 \$ 34.25 \$ 5.00	\$ 36.00 \$ 31.50 \$ 35.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 14.10 \$ 22.00 \$ 34.50	Low \$ 36.00 \$ 7.00 \$ 35.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 10.00 \$ 22.00 \$ 34.00 \$ 34.00 \$ 4.00
Wood waste mulch NE Chesapeake SE Florida Iowa Minneapolis Texas Denver Northwest SF-Bay SoCal	Average \$ 15.75 \$ 15.80 \$ 14.60 \$ 14.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 18.50 \$ 10.83 \$ 7.66 \$ 15.00 \$ 12.33 \$ 9.25	High \$ 33.00 \$ 17.00 \$ 24.95 \$ 15.00 \$ 40.00 \$ 20.00 \$ 14.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 14.00 \$ 14.00 \$ 15.00	Low \$ 8.00 \$ 13.00 \$ 5.00 \$ 13.00 \$ 20.00 \$ 17.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 7.00 \$ 15.00 \$ 9.00 \$ 5.00
Colored wood mulcl NE Chesapeake SE Florida Iowa Minneapolis Texas Denver Northwest SF-Bay SoCal	Average \$ 22.00 \$ 20.50 \$ 19.00 \$ 16.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 27.00 \$ 20.67 \$ 17.66 \$ 22.00 \$ 21.00 \$ 21.00 \$ 22.50	High \$ 22.00 \$ 22.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 25.00 \$ 24.00 \$ 21.32 \$ 22.00 \$ 22.00 \$ 22.00 \$ 25.00	
Bag Retail			
Compost (40# bag) NE Chesapeake SE Iorida Cleveland Iowa Texas Denver Phoenix Northwest SoCal Composted cow mat	\$ 6.87 \$ 3.73 \$ 4.00 \$ 1.99 \$ 2.45 \$ 3.12 \$ 4.25 \$ 4.25 \$ 4.25 \$ 4.71 \$ 4.29 \$ 5.39	High \$ 8.00 \$ 5.49 \$ 4.00 \$ 1.99 \$ 2.99 \$ 7.99 \$ 6.99 \$ 4.75 \$ 5.99 \$ 5.99 \$ 6.25 bag)Aver	Low \$ 4.50 \$ 2.15 \$ 4.00 \$ 1.99 \$ 2.10 \$ 1.50 \$ 1.50 \$ 1.50 \$ 1.73 \$ 2.77 \$ 2.99 \$ 3.90 age
HighLow NE Chesapeake SE Florida Cleveland Iowa Minneapolis Texas Phoenix Northwest SF-Bay	\$ 6.53 \$ 5.97 \$ 5.16 \$ 1.98 \$ 3.27 \$ 2.18 \$ 3.70 \$ 4.59 \$ 2.99 \$ 3.99 \$ 7.00	\$ 9.87 \$ 7.95 \$ 6.97 \$ 1.99 \$ 2.49 \$ 7.00 \$ 6.99 \$ 3.99 \$ 3.99 \$ 7.00 \$ 6.99 \$ 3.99 \$ 7.00	\$ 3.85 \$ 3.99 \$ 3.34 \$ 1.97 \$ 2.49 \$ 1.75 \$ 1.99 \$ 1.99 \$ 2.49 \$ 3.99 \$ 7.00

Agriculture

Farmers

From page 3

effectively making farmers wards of the state.

Indeed, if we use the traditional definition of socialism as the state ownership of the means of production, EU meddling in agriculture is as grand an experiment in socialist management as anything Lenin was ever able to accomplish.

Given the EU's predictable failure to achieve impossible bureaucratic mandates guaranteeing vague goals like "fair standards of living," or "reasonable prices," or "availability of supplies," it is no surprise that farmers are taking to the streets. Moreover, as the CAP timeline shows, the years since the 1960s have seen a steady shift toward newer, sexier, "green" initiatives that have steadily strangled the farmers who had come to depend on EU payouts. Frustration with environmental laws is top of the list of grievances, from Spain to Sweden.

In many ways, the current protests represent a delicious irony.

Farmers are using the publicity techniques honed by the green lobby to fight back against the regulations spawned by environmental activists these past decades. Special interest politics cuts both ways, it seems. When a motivated and adequately organized group combines to concentrate its lobbying power on government, it generates foreseeable incentives for the ruling legislatures.

Special interest groups, because they are relatively small, have much to gain from effective lobbying where they can extract great concessions at the cost of the wider public. Concentrate the gain, diffuse the pain is the name of the game. The greens did this successfully for a generation and now it is farmers who are taking a page from the playbook. They recognize, now that they have become largely beholden to taxpayer payments, that a noisy concentration of political pressure is the best means to keep the euros flowing. The prioritization of narrow interests over the broader public good is an old and familiar refrain—the protests are only noteworthy because they are forcing a previously successful interest group to concede to the will of a newly ascendant one.

And this, it hardly bears repeating, is precisely the trouble with excessive government involvement in free markets.

In an effort to support the goals of one group, it inevitably intrudes on the ambitions of another, initiating a special interest spiral in which the only loser is the broader, disinterested public.

Manure, as any politician will tell you, rarely runs uphill.

Paul Schwennesen is an environmental historian. He holds a Doctorate from the University of Kansas, a Master's degree in Government from Harvard University,

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Agriculture

From page 5

and degrees in History and Science from the United States Air Force Academy. He is a regular contributor to the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER). His writing has appeared at the New York Times, American Spectator, Claremont Review, and in textbooks on environmental ethics. This article was originally published by AIER, Great Barrington, Massachusetts (aier.org) and is reprinted under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). It is the opinion of the author and not necessarily the opinion of Composting News.

Biosolids

Synagro From page 1

and reported the biosolids piles to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Subsequent soil and water tests indicated high levels of PFAS in plaintiffs' soil, surface water and well water—many which were consistent with those found in tests of Granulite.

Since the application of Granulite, plaintiffs reported a variety of medical issues, along with the deaths of farm animals and household pets, including dogs, horses, a newborn bull calf, fish, peacocks, ducks, chickens, guineas and cranes. Plaintiffs said they are now unable to grow a vegetable garden.

"Now that their property and only water source is polluted with 'forever chemicals,' they face the stark possibility of having to abandon the home they love and the property they have," the suit says.

The suit says Synagro, which manages about 6.5 million tons of biosolids from more than 1,000 wastewater facilities in North America annually entered a contract with the city of Fort Worth in 2019 to manage its biosolids program, which produces about 26,500 dry tons of fertilizer each year. The product is sold to farmers and landowners in 12 North Texas counties as an organic alternative to commercial fertilizer. Per the contract, Synagro built a new biosolids processing facility to produce Granulite, a dry pellet fertilizer.

The suit notes that PFAS—which are known as "forever chemicals"—are not removed from processed biosolids through treatment. Because PFAS are environmentally persistent, and many can leach into the groundwater, they can cause public health and environmental harm long after their release.

"PFAS get into biosolids in two ways," the suit notes. "First, PFAS are ubiquitous in consumer products such as clothing, household cleaners, carpets, upholstered furniture, personal care products and makeup. When people use these products, PFAS are washed down the drain and enter sewer systems, where they are sent to wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). Second, many industries use PFAS, and their waste streams are also sent to WWTPs. While WWTPs do remove some of the chemicals in the wastewater, they do not remove PFAS. In fact, concentrations of PFAS are often higher in the effluent of WWTPs than the influent, indicating that precursor PFAS are biodegrading into new PFAS during the treatment."

On March 28, 2023, Synagro announced a joint project with CharTech Solutions, Toronto, to deploy hightemperature pyrolysis for PFAS mitigation of thermally dried biosolids. Synagro said it had been working with CharTech for three years to test and apply HTP technology for biosolids to eliminate PFAS.

Unfortunately, the suit says, "thermal destruction of PFAS-containing wastes can lead to additional health and environmental harm, since PFAS have high thermal stability, and incineration may release harmful byproducts."

The suit was filed in Baltimore County Circuit Court with a hearing scheduled for July 1.

Meanwhile, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), Silver Spring, Maryland, Johnson County, Texas has opened a criminal investigation and has held public hearings to warn residents so they can take protective action. PEER said local farmers have lost 10 cows and a horse after the application of Granulite.

"We see accounts of similar agricultural contamination calamities linked to biosolids across the country," said Kyla Bennett, PEER science policy director and a scientist who prepared an analytic report used by Johnson County officials. "It is important to note that each subsequent application of biosolids will increase the levels of PFAS in these soils and waters and will only exacerbate existing problems."

Synagro is owned by West Street Infrastructure Partners III, an infrastructure investment fund managed by Goldman Sachs Merchant Banking Division.

You can download the complaint at tinyurl.com/2z5rpbj.

Programs

Prince George's County recognized as program of the year

Prince George's County, Maryland has been honored with the "Organics Diversion Program of the Year" award from the U.S. Composting Council (USCC), at its annual conference and tradeshow, Compost2024, in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The award celebrates the county's efforts in diverting organic waste away from landfills and promoting environmentally responsible practices by expanding the curbside composting program, PGC Composts, to almost 173,000 households. In 2019, the county

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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

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Action Equipment Company Inc.

www.actionconveyors.com 2800 Hayes Street Newberg, OR 97132 Phone: 503-537-1111 Fax: 503-537-1117 YouTube: Action Conveyors LinkedIn: Action-Equipment-Company-Inc. Contact: Andrew LaVeine sales@actionconveyors.com



www.grindercrusherscreen.com 1772 Corn Road Smyrna, GA 30080 Phone: 770-433-2440 Fax: 770-433-2669 YouTube: GrinderCrusherScreen Twitter: GCS_Equipment Facebook:GrinderCrusherScreen Contact: Rick Cohen rick@grindercrusherscreen.com

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Screen USA Inc.

www.screenusa.net

Smyrna, GA 30080

Fax: 770-433-2669

Contact: Rick Cohen rick@screenusa.net

Phone: 770-433-2670

1772 Corn Road



www.westsalem.com P.O. Box 5288 665 Murlark Ave. NW Salem, OR 97304 Phone: 800-722-3530 Phone: 503-364-2213 Fax: 503-364-1398 YouTube: West Salem Machinery Facebook: West Salem Machinery Twitter: West Salem Machinery Twitter: West Salem Machinery Contact: Patrick Lorenz info@westsalem.com

Wood Shredders



www.grindercrusherscreen.com 1772 Corn Road Smyrna, GA 30080 Phone: 770-433-2440 Fax: 770-433-2669 YouTube: GrinderCrusherScreen Twitter: GCS_Equipment Facebook:GrinderCrusherScreen Contact: Rick Cohen rick@grindercrusherscreen.com



Diamond Z

www.diamondz.com 11299 Bass Lane Caldwell, ID 83605 Phone: 208-585-2929 Fax: 208-585-2112 YouTube: Diamond Z LinkedIn: DiamondZ Twitter: DZGrinders Facebook: Grindingsimplified Contact: Tristan Kruger tkruger@DiamondZ.com



West Salem Machinery

www.westsalem.com P.O. Box 5288 665 Murlark Ave. NW Salem, OR 97304 Phone: 800-722-3530 Phone: 503-364-2213 Fax: 503-364-1398 YouTube: West Salem Machinery Facebook: West Salem Machinery Twitter: West Salem Machinery Twitter: West Salem Machinery Contact: Patrick Lorenz info@westsalem.com

Thermometers & Monitoring Equipment



Reotemp Instruments

https://reotempcompost.com 10656 Roselle Street San Diego, CA 92121 Phone: 858-225-1889 Fax: 858-784-0720 YouTube: reotemp compost Twitter: reotempcompost Facebook: reotemp Contact: Nathan O'Connor compost@reotemp.com

Windrow Turners



Aeromaster Midwest Bio-Systems

www.aeromasterequipment.com www.midwestbiosystems.com 28933 35 E Street Tampico, IL 61283 Phone: 800-689-0714 Fax: 815-438-7028 YouTube: midwestbiosystems Twitter: compostingil Facebook: Contact: Cary Richardson info@midwestbiosystems.com



Brown Bear Corp.

www.brownbearcorp.com PO Box 29, 2248 Avenue of Industry Corning, IA 50841 Phone: 641.322.4220 Fax: 641.322.3527 YouTube: Brown Bear Corp Contact: Stan Brown sales@brownbearcorp.com



www.scarabmfg.com 1475 County Road W White Deer, TX 79097 Phone: 806-883-7621 Fax: 806-883-6804 YouTube: Scarab Manufacturing Twitter: Scarabmfg Facebook: Scarab International, LLLP Contact: Richard Miller info@scarabmfg.com

Wood Grinders -Horizontal



Industries, Inc.

www.banditchippers.com 6750 Millbrook Road Remus, MI 49340 Ph: 989-561-2270, 800-952-0178 Fax: 989-561-2273 YouTube: banditchippers Twitter: banditchippers Facebook: banditiindustries Contact: Regional Sales Mgr. sales@banditchippers.com



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DuraTech Industries

www.duratechindustries.net Box 1940 Jamestown, ND 58401 Phone: 701-252-4601 Fax: 701-252-0502 YouTube: Duratechindustries Contact: Bob Strahm ind.sales@duratechindustries.net



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www.hogzilla.com 14 Commerce Drive Sabetha, KS 66534 Phone: 800-743-3491 Phone: 785-284-3454 Fax: 785-284-3601 YouTube: CWMillHogZilla Facebook: HogZillaMonsterGrinders Instagram: HogZilla Monster Grinders Contact: Tim Wenger, VP, Sales Mgr. hogzilla@cwmill.com

 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.





Rotochopper www.rotochopper.com 217 West Street St. Martin, MN 56376 Phone: 320.548.3586 Fax: 320.548.3372 YouTube: rotochoppervideos Twitter:rotochopper Facebook: Rotochopper Contact: Nicole Klein info@rotochopper.com

Wood Grinders -Horizontal (cont.)



West Salem Machinery

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8507 S. Winn Rd. Winn, MI 48896 Phone: 800.831-0042 Phone 989.866.2381 Fax: 989.866.2280 YouTube: morbarkinc Facebook: morbarkllc Twitter: morbark Contact: Territory Sales Manager inquire@morbark.com



www.precisionhusky.com 850 Markeeta Spur Road Leeds, AL 35094 Phone:205-381-7189 Fax: 205-640-1147 Contact: Steve Briscoe steveb@precisionhusky.com

Wood Grinders -Tub



DuraTech Industries

www.duratechindustries.net Box 1940 Jamestown, ND 58401 Phone: 701-252-4601 Fax: 701-252-0502 YouTube: Duratechindustries Contact: Bob Strahm ind.sales@duratechindustries.net



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Hogzilla Grinders CW Mill Equipment -

www.hogzilla.com 14 Commerce Drive Sabetha, KS 66534 Phone: 800-743-3491 Phone: 785-284-3454 Fax: 785-284-3601 YouTube: CWMillHogZilla Facebook: HogZillaMonsterGrinders Instagram: HogZilla Monster Grinders Contact: Tim Wenger, VP, Sales Mgr. hogzilla@cwmill.com



Morbark, LLC

www.morbark.com 8507 S. Winn Rd. Winn, MI 48896 Phone: 800-831-0042 Phone 989-866-2381 Fax: 989-866-2280 YouTube: morbarkinc Facebook: morbarkllc Twitter: morbark Contact: Territory Sales Manager inquire@morbark.com



Precision Husky Corp.

www.precisionhusky.com 850 Markeeta Spur Road Leeds, AL 35094 Phone:205-381-7189 Fax: 205-640-1147 Contact: Steve Briscoe steveb@precisionhusky.com

If your business is not listed in this directory, please contact ken@compostingnews

Programs

Prince George's

was awarded "Compost Facility of the Year, Large-Scale," by USSC. That award is presented to a commercial-scale U.S. composting facility, public or private, which has displayed excellence in compost production, marketing/ distribution, has been in operation for a minimum of three years and meets all regulatory compliance.

"This award is a testament to the dedication of our residents and community partners," said Angela Alsobrooks, Prince George's county executive. "Through innovative programs and collaborative efforts, we are Prince George's Proud to create a greener, healthier and more sustainable future."

The county's commitment to educating residents about the benefits of composting and organic waste reduction has included workshops, webinars and outreach events that have empowered citizens to participate in the program actively. Partnerships with schools and community organizations have been instrumental in the program's success. Prince George's County has created a robust network committed to sustainable waste management by working together, the county said.



• ScrapDogs Community Compost, Washington, Maine, has expanded its operation to cover parts of central Maine, including Augusta, Fairfield, Hallowell, Waterville and Winslow. The cost of subscribing to ScrapDogs ranges from \$15 to \$51 a month, depending on whether the resident or business opts to have one or two buckets of waste picked up and the frequency of the pickups. The fee also gets users up to a half-yard of processed compost to use in their gardens, if desired. – Kennebec Journal, centralmaine.com



ChromaScape hosts grand opening

hromaScape, a specialty colorants and additives supplier for the wood mulch and other industries, this month hosted a plant tour to commemorate the grand opening of its new production facility in Stow, Ohio.

The tour, which was held on February 1, showcased ChromaScape's newest and largest facility to a crowd of the company's mulch customers.

"We showed our investment in [research and development] and our commitment to promoting the highest quality standards," said Ryan Stayanchi, vice president of operations."

ChromaScape said it opened the new facility as an investment to improve on its "already world class quality and service" to the wood mulch industry."

"The event, which included tours of its manufacturing, distribution and lab facilities, was designed to demonstrate "the amount of detail and consideration ChromaScape puts into servicing all of our customers," said Don Smith, plant manager. "We strive to retain a market leadership position and build upon strengthening customer confidence by providing products and services that are unmatched in the industry."

Established in 1998, ChromaScape is a specialty colorants and additives supplier that formulates raw materials into dyes and dispersions for customers to incorporate into their products and unique applications.





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