

Compost Working Group

Meeting Notes – July 19, 2014

ATTENDEES: Cary Giguere (AAFM), Dan Goossen (GMC), Steven Wisbaum (CV Compost), Shelagh Connelly and Jessica Bunker (Resource Management Inc.), Alex Utevsy (Highfields), Pat Sagui (CAV), Wendy Sue Harper (CAV), Cathy Jamieson (DEC), Josh Kelly (DEC), Jake Claro (VSJF), Karl Hammer (VCC), Lisa Ransom (Grow), Robert Foster (VNAP), anyone I missed?

NEXT STEPS:

- Horse Owner Pamphlet – Josh to incorporate last edits into the document and create final draft.
- Farmer/Livestock Pamphlet – Josh to explore creating draft with key group stakeholders.
- “Fixing the Broken System” Press Release – Josh to work up a draft based on previous press releases on PH issue and with help from Jessica Bunker and others. Josh will share with the group when it is ready.

NOTES:

Updates:

Dan G – Clopylad is still a problem and in food scraps and manure.

There is still a need to obtain a simple test kit from DOW. No such test exists currently.

EPA is very aware of the issues with persistent herbicides (PHs).

USCC has posted a web reporting tool for anonymous reporting of PHs.

Cary Oshins, USCC is the contact for PH issues.

DOW is pushing EPL as the lab of choice for testing, but it is still costly--\$350/sample (not including shipping).

Ohio State Univ. – testing compost all across the country, but controls are not growing well either making their nationwide analysis less conclusive.

Future of a simple tester – DOW is refining process, but folks are losing hope of this ever materializing. It apparently will only work on finished compost—which is much less valuable to composters since it won't work on hay or manure.

High Carbon Wood Ash:

How much high carbon wood ash is best to use to protect against PHs?

Group discussed this and the fact that no one has the perfect blend yet.

Horse Owner Pamphlet:

Group discussed having info documents for horse owners as well as other farmers, dairy and other livestock (poultry, goat, pigs, etc). There was discussion on ways the Horse Owner document could become something for livestock owners as a group or if they needed to be separate – Josh will continue to lead on this with input from Cary G. and the group.

Press Release – “Fixing the Broken System” Group wants a press release—story style—around the release of the document when it is ready and it NEEDS to be a POSITIVE Story. Jessica Bunker will work with Josh to develop a draft.