

Midwest Composting School 2008

June 9-11, 2008

**Field Extension Education Laboratory
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa**

The purpose of this school is to:

train stakeholders in the science of composting, handling challenging feedstocks, enhancing compost quality, using compost in construction projects, understanding compost sampling and analytical processes, and the environmental regulations.

Who should attend:

- Stakeholders and composters
- Professional engineers and consultants
- Natural Resource Conservation Service professionals
- DNR personnel including field staff
- City administrators and zoning officials
- Iowa waste exchange professionals
- Landfill managers and operators
- Compost facility operators
- Waste water treatment plant operators
- Yard waste recyclers
- Waste generators
- Organic compost producers

Each day will include a combination of hands-on training, lecture and discussion, and problem solving.

School Instructors

Ron Alexander of R. Alexander Associates, Inc. is an independent consultant and a veteran compost salesman and sales/marketing manager with almost 25 years of experience in compost use and marketing. Ron's is the author of "The Field Guide to Compost Use" and "The Practical Guide to Compost Marketing and Sales" and has been responsible for the sales and distribution of millions of tons of compost and other soil amendments. Ron will be responsible for providing a half-day specialized session on compost marketing strategies and techniques.

Ginny Black is Organics Recycling Specialist with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Ginny serves on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Composting Council and is the communications chair. In her job, Ginny provides technical assistance to compost facility operators and promotes market for finished compost. She provides education to citizens to help them make informed decisions and take actions that conserve resources and prevent pollution to benefit the environment, economy, and society. She is the primary contact for organics including woods waste, composting education and compliance, and technical assistance for organic management facilities. She will be responsible for educating participants on the condition of recycling in the Midwest and the available compost quality assurance programs.

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University Extension

Dr. Tom Glanville is a professor in the Department of Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University. He has 17 years of research experience in composting and compost utilization including studies on use of composted organics for storm water retention and erosion control on construction sites (sponsored by Iowa DOT and Iowa DNR), and on use of composting for bio-secure and environmentally sound emergency disposal of cattle and swine (sponsored by USDA-NRI, Iowa DNR, and the Canadian Research and Technology Initiative). His role will be to provide expertise on composting science and compost utilization. He will be a lead instructor in the development and delivery of Midwest Composting School 2008.

Professor **Tom Halbach** is an extension state specialist for Waste Management and Water Quality for the University of Minnesota. Tom's research and education interests include the beneficial utilization of waste materials in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, and mineland reclamation. Tom has conducted and successfully taught at the Midwest Composting School in 2004, 2002, 2000, 1998, and 1995. Tom's expertise in waste management and water quality puts him in demand worldwide as he studies many types of wastes, from ash and cement to food and refuse. Tom will be a lead instructor in the Midwest Composting School and will teach participants on the various aspects of composting science.

Wayne Thompson is presently Extension Program Specialist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Soil and Crop Sciences Department of Texas A&M University. Wayne has about 15 years of experience in compost test method development and evaluation. Wayne served as principal editor of the compost laboratory manual, "Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost (TMECC)", for U.S. Composting Council and USDA-ARS. Wayne conceptualized and co-developed the Compost Analytical Proficiency (CAP) testing program and for ten years served as technical advisor for the Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program of the US Composting Council. Wayne will educate participants on different compost test parameters, laboratory and field methods, and review end-use interpretation of laboratory test results.

Dr. Paul Walker is a professor within the Department of Agriculture at Illinois State University. As coordinator for the Livestock and Urban Waste Research Team, Paul works on projects involving recycling of livestock and urban wastes as value-added co-products. Paul has conducted several workshops and field days in Illinois regarding on how to develop and refine compost management strategies for using variable wastes, and the transfer of composting technology to stakeholders. He will be one of the lead instructors and will teach participants of Midwest Composting School about designer compost concepts and science.

Facility Operations Management Panel The members of this panel will share expertise on facility design, managements, and operations, to allow participants to learn from managers involved in composting different feedstocks utilizing different composting methods. Panelists include **Dave Marsh**, manager, Hyline Hatchery Compost Facility, Adel, IA; **Scott Smith**, administrator and recycling coordinator, Boone County Landfill, Boone, IA; **Lanny Bower**, supervisor, Streets Department, City of Webster City, IA; and **Jim Roth**, manager and Independent Compost Consultant.

Compost Marketing Panel The members of this panel will share expertise on compost marketing and sales, to allow participants to learn from managers involved in establishing and selling their facility composts in different markets. Panelists include **Russ Leistikko**, president of RW Farms LLC, Carver, MN; **Dave Marsh**, manager, Hyline Hatchery Compost Facility, Adel, IA; and **Scott Plett**, manager, Compost Facility, City of Davenport, IA.

School Instructors (continued)

Kapil Arora is extension field engineer for Iowa State University Extension with expertise in composting, water quality, and environmental regulations. Kapil is currently involved in developing a composting operation at Iowa State University and successfully conducted Midwest Composting School in 2004. Kapil has worked with yard waste, industrial waste, and livestock facilities for logistics and management of composting operations. He will also educate participants on recipe development, data management, record keeping on composting in Iowa and emerging carbon markets.

Duane Friend is an extension educator in the field of natural resources management with University of Illinois. Duane provides educational leadership in natural resource programming for a 23 county area in west central Illinois on several topics including areas of soil quality, soil organic matter management, and composting. Duane conducts educational workshops with many groups and individuals in soil and water management, and has been with University of Illinois Extension service for over 15 years. Duane will teach participants at the Midwest Composting School about compost science and biology.

Midwest Composting School Agenda

Monday, June 9, 2008

- 7:00 am Registration opens
Breakfast served at Field Extension Education Lab
- 8:00 Welcome and Introduction to the Course
Kapil Arora
- 8:15 Introduction to the composting process
Tom Halbach
- 9:15 Break
- 9:30 Biology of the composting process
Duane Friend
- 10:15 Matching feedstocks and technology to end uses
Kapil Arora
- 11:15 Process variables and recipe development
Paul Walker
- 12:00 pm Lunch and Introductions
- 12:45 Facility layout, management and design
Panel discussion with facility managers
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Use of monitoring equipment and control charts for process variables
Tom Halbach
- 3:00 Introduction to recipe calculator
Kapil Arora
Instructions for outdoor field exercises - building compost piles
Break and move to field demonstration area
- 5:30 Recess for the Day
- Hospitality Hour and Dinner - Holiday Inn**
- 6:30 Hospitality hour
- 7:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Compost testing standards and comparison of rules
Ginny Black

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

- 7:00 am Breakfast at Field Extension Education Lab
- 7:30 Monitor team compost piles and pre-made compost piles, collect samples – *field exercise area*
- Classroom activities**
- 8:30 Discuss monitoring results and troubleshooting Strategies – *All Instructors*
- 9:00 Compost quality evaluation and rebuilding of piles
Tom Halbach
- 9:30 Material testing methods: H₂O, EC, pH, Solvita, Oxytop – *Wayne Thompson*
- 10:00 Analyze samples and break
- 10:15 Lab testing procedures and interpretation of results
- 11:15 Use of composted organics for storm water retention and erosion control
Tom Glanville
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 12:45 Transfer to the LEBRC facility
- 1:00 Mortality composting demonstration site: A bio-secure and environmentally sound mortality management
Tom Glanville
- 2:00 Field tour - load bus and depart from Holiday Inn
- 3:00 Metro Compost Center – A yard waste composting facility involving gridding, blending/mixing, turning and screening operations in Des Moines, Iowa.
- 6:30 Arrive back at Holiday Inn, Ames.

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

- 7:00 am Breakfast at Field Extension Education Lab
- 7:30 Monitor team compost piles and pre-made compost piles – *field exercise area*
- Classroom activities**
- 8:00 Compost pile judging
All Instructors
- 8:30 Compost: A 'different animal'
Ron Alexander
- 9:15 Compost marketing program implementation options – *Ron Alexander*
- 10:00 Q & A, break
- 10:15 General sales principles and requirements
Ron Alexander
- 11:00 Compost quality issues
Ron Alexander
- 11:30 Emerging carbon offset credit markets
Kapil Arora
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:00 Establishing a market for your compost
Panel discussion with facility managers
- 2:45 Break and school evaluations
- 3:00 Exam – *All Instructors*
- 4:00 School adjourns

This school is a collaborative effort between Iowa State University, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota and Illinois State University.

Midwest Composting School 2008 Registration

Registration Instructions

- Registrations may be completed online using a credit card at www.aep.iastate.edu/compost
- Complete the registration form and send with check or credit card to:
**ISU Agribusiness Education Program
2104B Agronomy Hall
Ames, IA 50011-1010**
- Registrations may also be faxed with credit card information to (515) 432-9549.
- One registration per form. Photocopy for additional registrations.
- Checks should be payable to Iowa State University
- Telephone registrations are not accepted.
- No walk-in registrations are allowed. Registrations must be received by noon, June 2. Cancellations requesting a refund must also be received by noon, June 2, 2008.

DNR Certification

Approval for Iowa DNR Certification has been requested. Participants successfully completing the school will meet the requirements for certification under IAC 567 Chapter 105.

Continuing Education Credits

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be provided for successful completion of this school.

Questions

For questions about the Midwest Composting School 2008 contact our office at (515) 432-9548 or email us at aep@iastate.edu. You can also find more information online at www.aep.iastate.edu/compost.

Lodging

Participants are responsible for making their own lodging reservations. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Ames Conference Center, 2609 University Blvd, Ames. Rates are \$84/night plus tax. The block will be reserved at the above price until May 18, 2008. Call the hotel directly at (515) 268-8808 and mention the composting school for the special rate.

Maps

Maps of the Ames area, hotel location and directions to the Field Extension Education Laboratory will be sent following the receipt of your registration. They are also available on the school web site.

Registration Fee

Registration fees include meals indicated on the agenda, the evening reception meal, refreshments and handouts.

Early registration (postmarked by **May 27**)\$375

Late registration\$425

Total submitted\$ _____

Please select **ONE** book (included in registration.)

- Composting for Municipalities: Planning and Design Considerations, NRAES-94
- On-Farm Composting Handbook, NRAES-54

Name

Organization

Address

City

State

Zip

Email - you will receive your registration confirmation and receipt by e-mail.

Daytime phone

Credit Card number (Discover, MasterCard, VISA accepted)

3-digit security code in signature panel on back

Expiration date

Name as it appears on card

Signature