



MIDWEST COMPOST SCHOOL

JUNE 20-22, 2023 – AMES, IOWA

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TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023

Iowa State University Dairy Farm

- 8:00 AM **Registration opens, morning refreshments**
- 8:30 AM **Welcome and introduction to the course**
Dr. Kapil Arora, field agricultural engineer, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Ames, IA
- 8:35 AM **Introduction to the composting process**
Tom Halbach, extension professor emeritus, Soil, Water and Climate, University of Minnesota, St Paul, MN
- 9:45 AM **Break**
- 10:00 AM **Matching feedstocks and technology to end uses**
Dr. Kapil Arora, field agricultural engineer, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Ames, IA
- 11:00 AM **Process variables and recipe development**
Dr. Rob Michitsch, professor, Soil and Waste Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI
- 12:00 PM **Lunch (provided)**
- 1:00 PM **Use of monitoring equipment and control charts for process variables**
Tom Halbach, extension professor emeritus, Soil, Water and Climate, University of Minnesota, St Paul, MN
- 1:30 PM **Introduction to recipe calculators**
Alex Thomas
- 2:00 PM **Introduction to outdoor field exercises - Building compost piles**
- 2:15 PM **Break and move to Compost Facility**

Iowa State University Composting Facility

- 2:30 PM **Building test piles**
- 5:00 PM **Conclude building test piles, travel to evening program at hotel**

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center

- 6:00 PM **Hospitality hour**
- 6:30 PM **Dinner (provided)**
- 7:00 PM **Compost testing standards**
Jennifer Trent, Iowa Composting Council
- 8:00 PM **Adjourn for the day**



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

Iowa State University Dairy Farm

- 7:30 AM **Classroom opens, morning refreshments**
- 7:30 AM **Monitor team compost piles and pre-made compost piles**
- 8:30 AM **Discuss monitoring results and troubleshooting strategies**
Dr. Kapil Arora, field agricultural engineer, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Ames, IA
- 9:00 AM **Compost facility design**
Dr. Paul Walker, professor emeritus, Illinois State University
- 9:45 AM **On-site compost maturity testing methods and odor management for quality control**
Dr. Rob Michitsch, professor, Soil and Waste Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI
- 10:30 AM **Break**
- 10:30 AM **Analyze samples for maturity**
- 11:00 AM **Interpretation and use of laboratory results**
Alex Thomas
- 12:00 PM **Lunch (provided)**
- 12:45 PM **Compost regulations in Iowa: An overview**
Theresa Stiner, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- 1:30 PM **Facility operational issues and management**
Dr. Paul Walker, professor emeritus, Illinois State University
- 2:15 PM **Break**
- 2:30 PM **Fundamentals of food waste composting**
Tom Halbach, extension professor emeritus, Soil, Water and Climate, University of Minnesota, St Paul, MN
- 3:15 PM **Food waste collection and composting program**
Dr. Kapil Arora, field agricultural engineer, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Ames, IA

Iowa State University Composting Facility

- 3:45 PM **Equipment demonstrations: Screens, turners and grinders**
- 6:00 PM **Adjourn for the day**



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THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

Iowa State University Dairy Farm

- 7:30 AM **Classroom opens, morning refreshments**
- 7:30 AM **Monitor team compost piles and pre-made piles**
- 8:00 AM **Compost pile judging**
; All instructors
- 8:30 AM **Compost quality issues**
Dr. Rob Michitsch, professor, Soil and Waste Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI
- 9:15 AM **Compost marketing**
Tom Halbach, extension professor emeritus, Soil, Water and Climate, University of Minnesota, St Paul, MN
- 10:00 AM **Break and Q&A time**
- 10:15 AM **Managing facility for effective marketing**
Dr. Paul Walker, professor emeritus, Illinois State University
- 11:00 AM **Applications and end uses of finished compost**
Alex Thomas
- 12:00 PM **Lunch (provided)**
- 1:00 PM **Establishing a market for your compost**
; Panel discussion with facility managers
- 2:30 PM **Break, complete evaluation**
- 2:45 PM **Exam**
- 3:45 PM **Open discussion, wrap-up**
- 4:00 PM **School adjourns**