

## Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

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### 2.1.09

#### **COMPOST FACILITY PLANNING (East of Hudson)**

During planning stages of new WFP development and WFP revision, participants seeking compost facilities as solutions for water quality issues identified by the Conservation Planner will be required to meet the following criteria prior to consideration of funding approval:

1. The Participant shall possess or obtain the necessary equipment and labor to carry out composting (i.e. compost thermometer, tractor with bucket, windrow turner, or equivalent).
2. The Participant shall establish a trial windrow or pile in a non-sensitive area that is mutually agreed upon by the landowner and Conservation Planner to be managed for one year by the Participant or farm staff.
3. The Participant shall demonstrate the ability to successfully compost manure and/or other farm wastes that are representative of the material to be managed in a facility within the trial period.
4. The Participant shall have a current Nutrient management Plan in place for land applications of compost.
5. In coordination with the Conservation Planner, the Participant shall develop and implement a plan for the utilization or exportation of the finished compost during the one year trial phase.
6. The conservation planner will make arrangements for the Participant to visit a farm that is successfully composting to meet with that operator and/or attend a WAC sponsored or WAC approved composting workshop.

Participants interested in composting as a solution to water quality issues identified by the Conservation Planner who do not have the land area for full or partial on-farm utilization of compost and strictly intend to sell 100 % of the material will not be eligible for WAC funded composting facilities, however they may be eligible for waste storage facilities and/or other conservation practices to protect water quality as determined by the Planner.

Compost facilities will be sized to accommodate wastes produced on the farm based on existing conditions (i.e. acres of crops, number of Aus). Facilities will not be sized based on anticipated future operation expansion.

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Facilities will only be planned with roofs when the site requirements of NRCS and/or WAC overland flow standards for wastewater treatment cannot reasonable be met.

Once a compost facility is approved and designed, the Operation & Maintenance Agreement shall include language requiring the removal or utilization of existing stock piles in accordance with the Nutrient Management Plan within 18 months following the completion date of the compost facility if accumulations are present prior to construction.

Compost facilities will not be give consideration for expansion by WAC within a 18 month period following the completion date of the compost facility. Facility expansions will only be considered after 18 months and only if the Participant has demonstrated the ability to adequately manage the material and if the operation has expanded and increased their number of Aus or acres under crop production and water quality issues are identified as a result of that expansion.