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CWMI Update – July 2008

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/updates.htm>

New Urban Gardening Outreach Program

A new program is being initiated at CWMI in response to interest from community gardening groups in urban areas of New York State to provide more complete information about the levels of contaminants in urban soils. Typically, urban garden sites are located on abandoned properties that might have a history of contamination. At the same time, increasing interest in creating green and food-producing spaces within cities means that we need to find ways to assess contamination and minimize the exposure of gardeners to soil contaminants. We will be working with community gardening groups to test soils and provide gardeners with information on how to use test results to make decisions about best gardening practices. For information as it becomes available, visit: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/urbangardens.htm>

Contaminants in Soils and Residuals

CWMI is working on simpler and more interpretable soil tests for trace elements and toxic metals in soils and residuals. Quick field tests have been developed for copper, zinc and lead by Dr. Murray McBride (see: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/quicktest.pdf>). A PowerPoint presentation on the merits and deficiencies of the commonly used soil tests in Northeastern states for zinc and copper in agricultural soils is posted at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/soiltests.pdf>.

Mortality and Butcher Waste Composting Workshops

CWMI is involved in a Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NE SARE) grant with Pennsylvania and Maine to train the trainer in mortality and butcher waste composting. Three workshops will be held:

- September 16-17, 2008 - Samuel E Hayes Livestock Evaluation Center, State College, PA
- October 15-16, 2008 - Miner Institute, Chazy, NY
- April 28-29, 2009 - Highmoor Farm, Monmouth, ME

There will also be teleconferences for special topics. The announcement and application can be accessed at <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/carcasstraining.pdf>.

Compost GIS Maps

We are currently updating our compost maps on the CWMI web site.

(<http://compost.css.cornell.edu/maps/simple-search.asp>) These maps connect people that have feedstock to compost with composters and compost producers with users. We can use your help in several ways to make the maps as complete as possible.

Please let us know of changes in operations, new sites, or relocations in NYS or facilities within 50 miles of NYS borders. We will make the survey document available on our web site and will also send it to those we have e-mail addresses for. A follow-up phone call will also be made to facilities to check information that we have or have been submitted. Mary Schwarz will be doing the updating and would love to hear from you (msp5@cornell.edu or 607-255-8444). If you would like your facility removed from our maps we are glad to do that as well. Ag educators, CCE, NRCS staff, if you know of sites that would be interested and would not get this information, please let us know or forward this Update.

Bedding

CWMI has completed both phases of the DMS bedding work and the results will be posted soon at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/bedding.htm>.

The article “**Dairy Manure Solids Cut Bedding Costs**” was just published in the June issue of Northeast DairyBusiness and can be accessed at:

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/NEDairybeddingcosts.pdf>

Empire Farm Days

CWMI will have a display at Empire Farm Days this year. There will be information on the new Urban Gardening and Outreach Program, as well as information on the recently completed Dairy Manure Solids as Bedding project. Be sure to visit us in the Empire Building (#400). Empire Farm Days is held the second Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of August each year (this year’s dates are August 5, 6 and 7) at the Rodman Lott Farm site on Route 414 in Seneca Falls. For more information on EFD, go to <http://www.empirefarmdays.com>.

New Staff

We are pleased to announce that Hannah Shayler has recently been hired by CWMI as an Extension Associate to plan and develop the outreach program in urban gardening and soil contaminant testing. Hannah is completing her MS degree in Natural Resources this summer with a thesis titled: “Mercury contamination in the northeastern United States: Science-based decision making about fish consumption”, and will be working full-time for CWMI by late summer. For more information on Hannah’s research, visit: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/staff.htm>.

Resources now available on our web site

- **Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality and Butcher Waste.** 20-minute video is now available for free downloading at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/7870>. VHS copy for sale, see: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/naturalrendering.htm>
- **Compost...because a rind is a terrible thing to waste!** The 65-page manual can now be accessed at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/compostbecause.pdf>. Hard copy and videos are sold at: <http://compost.css.cornell.edu/FoodCompostpr.html>
- **Yard Waste Management – A Planning Guide for New York State.** 1990 edited version. Prepared by Cornell University, Tellus Institute, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Can be accessed at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/yardwastemanual.pdf>