

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND WASTE UTILIZATION



Composting reduces the volume and weight of livestock manure and can produce a marketable product to increase farm revenues. While not all farms are able to take advantage of this technology, some may be able to realize some of the benefits of composting through a centrally-located composting facility.



A manure composting and waste recycling management service has been established at Wil-Rock Farm, located in the Mill Creek Watershed of Columbia County. The Mill Creek Watershed has 3,000 animals on six dairy farms, producing as much waste as 150,000 humans. The project includes demonstrating an outdoor windrow composting operation, developing and demonstrating an innovative strategy for manure and waste collection, documenting material flows and energy usage, and assessing the overall costs and benefits of the collection and composting operation.



This centrally located composting facility operated by Earthworks, a composting business, may provide a business model for managing not only manure, but also hard-to-recycle wastes such as waxed corrugated cardboard and food wastes. Waxed corrugated cardboard has been used as cow bedding and a compost ingredient. The larger central composting operation may provide better opportunities to market the compost product and to realize a new income source through tipping fees from including food wastes in the composting process.

