

COMPOST COMMUNICATOR™

The quarterly newsletter of the United States Composting Council – Summer 2003 Edition

Presidents Greeting

Kevin Tritz

Summertime is a busy time of year for all of us. This year, it has been made even busier by the energy and momentum generated by the 2003 USCC Annual Conference held in Las Vegas this past January. I would like to once again thank those of you who were involved either as a Committee member, speaker or volunteer for all of your hard work to make the Conference a success.

We have seen a dramatic increase in USCC membership and increased demand for our membership services, largely as a result of the Conference. We continue to receive many inquiries about membership, the STA program, and requests for speakers or additional information from individuals and various trade associations.

It is apparent that composting, especially the composting of organics is rapidly becoming an accepted method for the management of solid waste, as indicated by the increased

activity and vigorous discussions on the USCC List Serve. This increased activity within the industry has also generated new members and a new, increased awareness of our industry capabilities.

The USCC has had a very successful year to date. In our ongoing efforts to continue our progress, we are in the planning stages for a bigger and better 2004 Annual Conference. A site and a date have been chosen and final arrangements are being made. I'm pleased to announce that

the 2004 Conference will be held at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas January 25-28.

We need help and the continued involvement of our members in the preparations for the Conference. Please call Stu to volunteer for the various committees related to this year's event. We need everyone to pitch in and help to make sure that the Conference is an even bigger success than last year. This will insure that the USCC will continue to build on the momentum that has been generated this year!



"Cortec was new to the composting industry last year when we decided to join USCC and we have been very impressed with the quality of the resources available to us. The annual conference provided us with the opportunity to showcase our new products to a very educated and targeted audience. Additionally, the newsletter and storefront have been a valuable source of information and have actually resulted in orders in parts of the country we had never targeted before. I cannot think of another organization that could serve our needs better."

Bob Boyle Cortec Corporation



Las Vegas, NV — Round 2 "Growing the Industry"

The 12th Annual USCC Conference will be a KNOCK OUT!!

Don't believe us??

Read what some of last years attendees had to say!

January 25 — 28, 2004

Tropicana Resort

Inside

Executive Director's Message	1	Clopyralid Updates	8
USCC Programs and Initiatives	1	Clopyralid Litigation	9
New Members	2	Compost Issues Around the Nation	9
Member Profile	3	Compost Short Course	10
BioSolids Compost Legislative Alert	4	Composting Exam	10

Executive Director's Message

Stu Buckner

USCC Programs and Initiatives

Annual Conference

The USCC's 11th Annual Conference was a tremendous success. Hosted by 20 sponsors, 40 exhibitors at the trade show, and more than 300 participants, we received exceptional positive feedback about the conference from all those who attended. This year's conference will feature additional interactive sessions, training opportunities and participation from various national and international organizations. Additional space has been reserved for vendors to exhibit products and services. So don't miss this year's conference! You'll find both the conference registration form and more detailed information about the conference in this newsletter. If you would like to arrange a session or request a session topic, please contact Stu Buckner by phone or mail at the USCC office or by e-mail at buckstop@vdot.net.

Membership Challenge

Membership revenue is the primary source of funding for programs, association activities, and membership services. A greater membership base improves the association's ability to provide the level of services consistent with the needs of a national organization. All USCC members are again requested to recruit just 1 new member in 2003. The USCC member that recruits the greatest number of new members in 2003 will be awarded FREE registration to the Annual Conference in January 2004 at the Tropicana in Las Vegas.

New Grant Management Service

During the past 12 years, the USCC has been awarded several grants from a number of government agencies and corporations. Often, eligibility for grant funding requires sponsorship or participation of a university, government agency, or a not-for-profit association. The USCC is now offering grant administration and management services for eligible projects. Eligibility is determined by a review committee and is based on whether a proposed project falls within the

scope of the mission of the USCC and will provide a contribution to further the growth of the composting industry.

Membership Directory

The membership directory is being updated for distribution later this year. All members should review their listing and make any necessary changes now. To make changes in your company description or contact information, please request a copy of the membership directory form by e-mail and return to uscc@composting-council.org or accounting@compostingcouncil.org. For those who do not have e-mail, call the USCC office and fax the form to 631-737-4939.

Storefronts

Several USCC vendor and consultant members have commented on the positive results they are getting from their Storefronts on the USCC website. For additional information on Storefronts, please contact Ginny Black at USCC-ginny@worldnet.att.net or admin@compostingcouncil.org

Elections for Board of

Director's Positions
Elections for USCC Board of Directors will take place in November, 2003. Any USCC member is eligible to serve on the Board or to nominate another member. Bob Rynk is chairing the Nominations Committee. Please submit a nomination by September 15 by contacting Bob at rrynk@jgpress.com or 610-967-4135, ext. 27. The Board consists of 10 "Composter" members, representing composting facility operators and compost producers, plus 5 "Affiliate" members that represent associated organizations such as public agencies, professional consultants, suppliers of services, products and equipment, etc. This year's elections will fill 3 Composter positions and 3 Affiliate positions. We encourage you to nominate one or more of your respected colleagues. The USCC relies on the talented people of the composting industry to further its mission and strengthen the industry. The nomination form can be found on the USCC website and on the next page of this newsletter.

"As someone who has been involved in the composting industry for 15 years I understand how important the Compost Council is. The conference is great and the web site with the store front is very useful, but I feel that the most important task of the Council is the information that is shared and the lobbying efforts. It is critical that our industry has a voice with our government representatives and the US Composting Council is that voice. Thanks for your efforts!"

Tim O'Hara Wildcat Mfg.

"I have been involved with USCC since its inception. The organization has effectively evolved and continued to be valuable – partly as a source of information and networking, and partly as a way to communicate significant events and achievements to others. The organization has only one focus which is to connect the industry and support its growth. I like that."

Jan Allan Senior Technologist
CH2M Hill Seattle, WA

Welcome New Members

Jorn Johansen, **Polargruppen**, Askim, Norway

Jason Hui, Hong Kong

Vin Mula, **Boston Bark Corp.**, Waltham, MA

Steve Erickson, **Planet Mars Recycling, Inc.**,

Troy Northrup, **MDI Waste Services**, Saint John, NB Canada

Steven P. Christman, **Northeast Indiana Solid Waste**, Ashley, IN

Russ Davis, **Organix, Inc.** Walla Walla, WA

Don Cordell, **Oakleaf Enterprises LLC**, Central Point, OR

Ravi Wijeratne, **Burns Environmental and Technologies, Ltd.**,
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Tim Stemwedel, **California Organic Fertilizers**, Fresno, CA

J.W. Massey, **Aqua-Zyme Services, Inc.**, Van Vleck, TX 77482

Mike Schorp, **Parker Ag Services, LLC**, Colorado Springs, CO

Orlando D. Pagan, **Amerigrow Recycling**, Delray Beach, FL

Shane Donnelly, **Doppstadt US**, Haslett, MI

Mark Beason, **Keith Manufacturing Company**, Madras, OR

Tom Gibbons, **Bandit Industries**, Remus, MI

Bonnie Edkin, **Edkin Health & Environmental Services**, Halifax, PA

Richard Reuth, **Landscape Cooperative**, Houston, TX

Joe DiNorsica, **Laurel Valley Soils**, Avondale, PA

Debbie Dodson, **Tetra Pak**, San Diego, CA

Shannon Leavitt, **Natural Fertilizer**, Wildarado, TX

Andre LaGace, **Hydralogic Systems, Inc.** Ontario, Canada

Legislative and Environmental Affairs
The USCC submitted Testimony to the Oregon Department of Agriculture regarding the Temporary and Proposed Permanent Rules Limiting Clopyralid Products. "We urge ODA to make the temporary rules permanent, as proposed, maintaining the restrictions on clopyralid use for residential, commercial and public properties where turf is grown." The permanent rule was adopted. A Position Statement was submitted to Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack requesting that he line veto a provision in Senate File 458 section 133, passed by the legislature, that attempted to repeal Iowa's ban on landfilling of yard trimming's. The Governor vetoed the proposed legislation which "would have crippled the state's composting efforts". All USCC Position

Statements and White Papers will soon be posted on the website.

Seal of Testing Assurance Program
The STA program continues to be the most recognizable program that the USCC offers. Both company membership and the quantity of compost enrolled in the program have grown dramatically in 2003. The program had, at last count, 58 member companies with 81 compost products enrolled. These companies represent 25 states in the nation and approximately 3,000,000 cubic yards of compost! The STA management team of Ron Alexander and Al Rattie will continue to focus their efforts on promoting STA compost specification and use in the most efficient and cost effective venues available to the program.



"The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County has been a member of the USCC for the past 10 years. The Authority processes 55,000 ton of Wastewater Biosolids and 200,000 tons of Yard Waste Biomass annually. The Council has offered many opportunities for the Authority to participate proactively on national issues that could affect the Authority's operations. The Authority has also been involved in the crafting of the direction and goals of the Council. These opportunities are available to any member no matter how large or small. Personally I have found that the opportunity to interact with other Members of the Council through either the annual conference, the web site, or individually provides me with information I would not normally have access to unless I paid for it. The compost industry is unique and to be successful in this industry on a long term basis requires unique decisions. The Council offers its members the opportunity to be successful. "

Pat Byers, Solid Waste Authority
Palm Beach County



Where's your company's ad???

Call the USCC offices (631-737-4931) for
COMPOST COMMUNICATOR
advertising rates!!

Member Profile

AMADAS INDUSTRIES manufactures and markets a complete line of grinding, processing, conveying, bagging, palletizing, and coloring equipment for the compost, horticultural, and bark and soils industries.

Amadas has been a pioneer in the development of disc screens, trommel screening systems and allied equipment for many other industries, with more than four decades of experience in the development of innovative "separation" technology. We also design and engineer complete systems for the environmental recycling of yard trimmings and have installed some of the largest yard trimmings recycling facilities in the U.S.

Our roots began in our agricultural division, where today, we are a major manufacturer of pull-type and self-propelled peanut and edible bean harvesting equipment. Our current production pull-type six-row combine is the largest in the world. In a joint venture agreement with John Deere Co., we developed the world's first eight-row self-propelled peanut combine and we are an international market leader in peanut harvesting equipment.

Also, in our agricultural program, we manufacture a complete range of hard

hose traveler irrigators. We were one of the first companies in the U.S. to introduce hard hose travelers to the market more than 25 years ago. To our knowledge, our Reel Rain Model 3500 is the largest hard hose traveler manufactured in the world.

We have built our reputation in every industry that we participate in by providing our customers with equipment conceptualized in design with innovative technology, manufactured to the highest standards of quality, and delivered to our customers' performance satisfaction. And, equally as important, our customers have a commitment from us to stand behind our products with a level of after-sales product support second to none. This philosophy has served us well for more than 40 years and has provided the foundation upon which we have built a sound, diversified, well respected company in every industry we serve. Needless to say, we are extremely proud of our accomplishments!

Amadas Industries
1100 Holland Road
Suffolk, VA 23434
Tel. (757) 539-0231
Fax (757) 934-3264
www.amadas.com
Contact: Tiny Andrews



The GORE™ Cover System



- PRODUCES STABLE COMPOST IN EIGHT WEEKS
- REDUCES ODORS BY 90-97%
- USED BY OVER 100 FACILITIES WORLDWIDE

For North America inquiries, please contact:
SEC, the exclusive North American Distributer for **GORE™ Cover Systems**

774-D Meadowlark Rd
Lynden WA 98264
360 650 0443
info@compost-technologies.com
compost-technologies.com



"As a university faculty member with strong interests in composting and compost quality/use evaluation, I have found my membership in the USCC invaluable for several reasons. The interaction with composting and compost use practitioners provides me with a "reality check" on the usefulness and relevancy of both research and educational programs. As an Extension Educator, I am very concerned about the quality of composting training programs, and I have had the opportunity to participate in the Council's redesign of educational resources. I also have had an opportunity to influence the direction and position that the Council takes on issues related to compost quality standards. I think it is very important to have academics work closely with others affiliated with the composting industry so that we move it from "waste management" to "product manufacturing".

Leslie Cooperband Assoc. Professor
Department of Soil Science
University of Wisconsin



AMADAS
INDUSTRIES

Biosolids Compost Legislative ALERT! -

Congress: Proposed
Legislation Impacts Recycling
Options, Alarms Consumers
Bob O'Dette, Synagro

H.R. 186 – Sewage Sludge in Food Production Consumer Notification Act of 2003 – was introduced by U.S. Representative Jose Serrano of New York (D-Bronx). The goal of the bill is to amend the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the egg, meat, and poultry inspection laws to ensure that consumers receive notification regarding food products from crops, livestock, or poultry raised on land on which treated sewage sludge (also known as biosolids) have been applied. The legislation was introduced in January, 2003, and has no co-sponsors at this time. It will have broad and negative impacts on the biosolids composting industry, if adopted. Nearly half of the 8 million dry tons of biosolids generated in the U.S. annually are beneficially recycled as a fertilizer or soil amendment on agricultural lands.

This legislation was developed under the pretext of expanding consumer notification in order to better facilitate consumer choices. In reality, however, the bill will scare consumers away from purchasing food products that have been produced using treated and disinfected sewage sludge as fertilizers and any agricultural food products grown using compost containing biosolids. The intent of the legislation would also be to discourage the agri-

cultural industry from recycling organic wastes such as biosolids on croplands used for food production.

In addition to having negative – if unintended – consequences, the introduction of this legislation is also poorly timed. A recent 18-month study by the National Academy of Science (NAS), National Research Council concluded that there have been no documented adverse health impacts on humans or animals resulting from the practice of land applying biosolids. Dr. Thomas Burke, a professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University was the chairman of the 16-member scientific panel wrote: “There are no studies documenting adverse health effects from land application of biosolids, even though land application has been practiced for years.”

H.R. 186 singles out biosolids, but it ignores untreated and unregulated animal manures used for the same purposes. Animal manures are not required to meet the strict standards in EPA's CFR Part 503 regulations and are not treated to reduce pathogens and metals like biosolids before being used as fertilizers. Similarly, the legislation does not address the issue of limiting the heavy metal content of commercial chemical fertilizers used in food production.

Members of the composting industry should be concerned about this recent legislation, H.R. 186, for several reasons: n It would limit the market

and choices available to recyclers of organic wastes. n The bill unfairly singles out and demonizes the use of biosolids (treated sewage sludge) as a fertilizer product. n This legislation will discourage both the marketability and consumer acceptance of food products produced with biosolids compost materials. n It could possibly lead to further labeling and restrictions on other compost materials and practices through additional legislation and regulation in Washington, DC. n This legislation purports to promote consumer choice and notification but, in reality, will discourage consumer options and use of a beneficial, organic product.

Please consider voicing your concerns and opposition to this legislation by contacting the bill author:


Representative Jose E. Serrano
2227 Rayburn House
Office Building,
Washington, DC 2051-3216
(202) 225- 6001 fax
E-mail: jserrano@mail.house.gov

The “Sewage Sludge in Food Processing Consumer Notification Act of 2003” has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture. Please also send a copy of your letter to the chairmen of these Congressional panels and indicate your opposition to this legislation – and any law – that would unfairly limit the choices and markets for the growing

composting industry in the United States.

Representative Robin Hayes
Chairman, Livestock and
Horticulture Subcommittee
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515-6001
(202) 225-0917 fax
E-mail: rhayes@mail.house.gov

Representative W.J. “Billy” Tauzin
Chairman, House Committee on
Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115
(202) 225-1919 fax
E-mail: commerce@mail.house.gov


“As an engineering and construction company serving the solid waste processing industry, we have found our recent membership most useful. For example, we have a nice directory of names of operators who potentially could benefit from our services. We also receive from USCC on a regular basis notices of upcoming RFPs of interest. In fact, the USCC should be commended as the only organization that provides its members this service. We look forward to more active participation as time goes on and the composting industry keeps growing and succeeding.”

Nat Egosi RRT Engineering,
LLC RRT Design
& Construction





US COMPOSTING COUNCIL

US COMPOSTING COUNCIL PRESENTS THE 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

GROWING THE INDUSTRY

TROPICANA RESORT | LAS VEGAS | NEVADA | JAN 25-28 2004

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



THIS YEAR INCLUDE INTERACTIVE SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS ON COMPOSTING OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT, MARKETING, BUSINESS ISSUES, AND A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON CLOPYRALID LITIGATION AND LIABILITY ISSUES.

SUNDAY JAN | 25

- USCC Board of Directors Meeting
- Compost Marketing Workshop & Training Seminar
- Workshop on Compost Tea - Production and Applications
- Workshop on Integrating Backyard Composting Programs as tools for waste diversion, compost facility acceptance, and compost marketing
- Registration & Exhibitors Setup

MONDAY JAN | 26

- CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- ▶ PLENARY SESSION
 - The Status of Composting in the US
 - Growing the Industry-Expanding Markets for Compost Products
 - Clopyralid Litigation and Liability Issues
 - USCC Programs and Initiatives
 - BREAK IN EXHIBIT AREA
- CONCURRENT SESSION A
- ▶ STATE OF THE ART UPDATE ON ODOR CONTROL
 - A Comparison of Odor Prevention vs. Treatment
 - Odor Control Options and Practical Application
 - Odor Assessment and Control at Composting Facilities: Case Studies
- CONCURRENT SESSION B
- ▶ BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS: COMING OF AGE
 - Latest Developments in Biodegradable and Compostable Products
 - Standards for Biodegradable Products
 - Case Studies of Biodegradable Plastics Use in the US and Canada
 - LUNCH
- CONCURRENT SESSION A
- ▶ CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN COMPOSTING
 - Surviving Community Siting Challenges
 - Integrating Composting at the Landfill
 - Improving Operating Efficiency at Older Facilities
 - Developing New Facilities in Urban Areas
 - BREAK IN EXHIBIT AREA

- ▶ NEW DIRECTIONS IN APPLIED RESEARCH
 - Link Between Research and Practical Benefits for Composting
 - Modified Aerated Static Pile Method for Biosolids Composting
- CONCURRENT SESSION B
- ▶ NEW AND UNUSUAL FEEDSTOCKS
 - Opportunities and Challenges for Incorporating Liquid Waste at Composting Facilities
 - Composting Shellfish Residuals
 - Animal Mortalities
- ▶ WASTE COMPOSITION AND REDUCTION
 - Backyard Composting: Developing Successful Programs
 - What's Really in Our Waste Stream
 - BREAK IN EXHIBIT AREA
- ▶ USCC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- ▶ PRESIDENTS RECEPTION

TUESDAY JAN | 27

- CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- ▶ DISCUSSION OF CLOPYRALID LIABILITY ISSUES, RECENT LEGISLATION AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS
- CONCURRENT SESSION A
- ▶ FORUM ON LINKING COMPOST PRODUCT QUALITY DATA WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRODUCT USE
 - What does the Data Mean?
 - Compost Analysis Proficiency (CAP) Program Results and Application
 - Influence of the USCC STA Program on Compost Marketing Programs
 - BREAK IN EXHIBIT AREA
- ▶ FORUM ON PRODUCT LABELING, APPLICATION RATES AND END USE RECOMMENDATIONS
 - Labeling According to End Use
 - Application Rate Recommendations Provided with Sale of Compost Products
 - How to Label Products for Organic Growers
- CONCURRENT SESSION B
- ▶ PUBLIC HEALTH AND ODOR ISSUES: PERCEPTION AND REALITY
 - Odor: Physiological and Psychological Response

- Managing Composting Operations: Public and Worker Health
- Heavy Metals and Organics in Compost Products
- BREAK IN EXHIBIT AREA
- ▶ COMPOST TEA PRODUCTION AND APPLICATION; VERMICOMPOSTING
 - Industry Trends for Compost Tea Applications
 - Microbiology of Compost Teas
 - Vermicomposting Organic Wastes
 - USCC AWARDS LUNCHEON
- CONCURRENT SESSION A
- ▶ EXPANDING MARKETS FOR COMPOST
 - Marketing Compost for Erosion Control
 - Compost use for Sustainable Agriculture
 - Compost use for Bioremediation
 - BREAK IN EXHIBIT AREA
- ▶ OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPOSTERS
 - Effects of New Stormwater Regulations
 - Capturing Food Residuals
 - New Composting Technologies and Equipment
- CONCURRENT SESSION B
- ▶ WORKSHOP ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS OF COMPOSTING: PART 1
 - Key Elements for Success in the Composting Industry: Case Studies and Lessons Learned
 - A Roadmap to Grow and Prosper in the Composting Industry
 - BREAK IN EXHIBIT AREA
- ▶ THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS OF COMPOSTING: PART 2
 - Common Principles for Business and Success in the Compost Industry
 - Win-Win Business Relationships and Contracts
 - Public-Private Partnerships
 - Business Efficiency and Diversification

WEDNESDAY JAN | 28

- Tours: Hoover Dam and others to be announced
- Equipment Demonstrations
- USCC/SWANA Certification Exam for Manager of Compost Programs

REGISTER TODAY



GO TO WWW.COMPOSTINGCOUNCIL.ORG, CALL THE USCC AT 631 737 4931, OR EMAIL AT USCC@COMPOSTINGCOUNCIL.ORG
EXHIBITOR INFORMATION AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE USCC WEB SITE OR CALL THE USCC AT THE NUMBER ABOVE

HOTEL INFORMATION

TROPICANA RESORT AND CASINO
1 800 634 4000 | ASK FOR THE USCC CONFERENCE RATE
RESERVE NOW! ROOM BLOCK WILL BE RELEASED DEC 24 2003

JAN 25-28 \$59 | NIGHT
JAN 24 \$99 | NIGHT (for those desiring a Saturday stay over)

CURRENT CONFERENCE SPONSORS INCLUDE

BARNES NURSERY
BIOCYCLE
CH2M HILL
COMPOSTING NEWS
CONTINENTAL BIOMASS INDUSTRIES (CBI)
CORTEC
ERTH PRODUCTS
KESSLER CONSULTING

KOMPTECH FARWICK
MSW MAGAZINE
NRG PROCESSING SOLUTIONS
PLASTICS SOLUTIONS
ROTO-MIX
SHEREMETA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
SYNAGRO
WASTE MANAGEMENT
W.L. GORE AND ASSOCIATES



US COMPOSTING COUNCIL PRESENTS THE

12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

GROWING THE INDUSTRY

TROPICANA RESORT | LAS VEGAS | NEVADA | JAN 25-28 2004

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

YOUR INFORMATION

business affiliation _____ name _____

address _____

city _____ state/province _____ country _____ postal code _____

email _____ telephone _____ fax _____

uscc member uscc non-member

CONFERENCE FEES | JAN 26-28

includes sessions and session abstracts, exhibits, breakfasts, refreshment breaks, the Presidents Reception and Awards Luncheon.

member rate prior to Dec | 5 \$ 355 _____

member rate after Dec | 5 \$ 395 _____

non-member rate prior to Dec | 5 \$ 425 _____

non-member rate after Dec | 5 \$ 475 _____

conference speaker rate \$ 250 _____

attending Presidents Reception? yes no

(included in conference costs)

attending Awards Luncheon? yes no

(included in conference costs)

FACILITY TOURS *(to be announced, included in conference costs)*

attending tour of Hoover Dam? WEDNESDAY JAN 28 10AM-3PM

yes no *(if yes, add an additional \$ 35 to your registration)* _____

certification exam for Manager of Compost Programs

USCC or SWANA members add \$ 125 | Non-Members add \$ 250

PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING & WORKSHOPS | SUNDAY JAN 25

compost marketing workshop 9 am-5 pm _____

add \$ 125 to your registration

backyard composting workshop 2pm - 5 pm _____

add \$ 35 to your registration

compost tea workshop 2pm - 5 pm _____

add \$ 55 to your registration

TOTAL PAYMENT _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT: check (enclosed) credit card (Visa | MC | AmEx) money order

credit card no. _____ expires _____

name on card _____ signature _____ date _____

MAIL PAYMENT (check, credit card no., money order) or FAX FORM to : 631 737 4939

US COMPOSTING COUNCIL | 4250 Veterans Memorial hwy suite 275 | Holbrook, NY 11741

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation notices must be made in writing (office fax 631 737 4939). Refunds of full fee, less \$50 cancellation fee, will be made only if notice of cancellation is received by December 27, 2003. No refund will be granted after December 27, 2003. Please call the Council's Office (631 737 4931) to confirm receipt of cancellation.

NOT A MEMBER?

Join the US COMPOSTING COUNCIL today and save \$ 75 on your conference registration fee! (see uscc website to download membership application at WWW.COMPOSTINGCOUNCIL.ORG)

HOTEL INFORMATION

Tropicana Resort and Casino
1 800 634 4000 | ask for the uscc conference rate
Reserve Now! Room block will be released Dec 24 2003

JAN 25-28 \$ 59 | night

JAN 24 \$ 99 | night

(for those desiring a saturday stay over)



The Way Las Vegas Was Meant To Be

Tired of **Broken** Promises?



#&?^%&#*!!!!
 (At least the Eco Film™ Bag is strong!)



Free
 Bag Samples
 1-800-4-CORTEC

Eco Film™ and EcoWorks™ bags have:

- High clarity
- Superior curb-life
- Moisture resistance
- Strength- even more than non-biodegradable bags
- High performance and bio-based raw materials.



Eco Film™ and EcoWorks™ offer high performance solutions!



- Our bags meet or exceed domestic and international standards for compostability.
- With over 20 formulations Cortec can ensure you get the performance and physical properties you require.
- All bags are manufactured in Cambridge, Minnesota under strict ISO 9001-2000 and 14001 guidelines.



On-site support and recommendation

Cortec Corporation
 4119 White Bear Parkway
 St Paul, MN 55110
 (651) 429-1100 • Fax (651) 429-(1122)
 1-800-4-CORTEC • info@cortecvci.com
 www.cortecvci.com • www.ecofilm.com

Clopyralid Updates

USCC Letter of Testimony – May 19, 2003

TO: Dale Mitchell, Oregon
Department of Agriculture
FROM: The U.S. Composting
Council

RE: Testimony Regarding the
Temporary and Proposed
Permanent Rules Limiting
Clopyralid Products

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On behalf of the U.S. Composting Council (USCC), we commend the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for their prudent and environmentally responsible actions regarding clopyralid. DEQ's study to determine the extent of clopyralid contamination of compost was much needed. It relieved this burden from the state's compost producers, who are already overburdened by the clopyralid issue. Likewise, the temporarily rules, issued by ODA following the DEQ study, were a responsible and logical response to the study's serious findings. We urge ODA to make the temporary rules permanent, as proposed, maintaining the restrictions on clopyralid use for residential, commercial and public properties where turf is grown.

Clopyralid has been a focus of attention for the U.S. Composting Council (USCC)

for over three years. In this time span, the USCC has learned that: (1) clopyralid is present in commercially-produced compost at potentially damaging levels; (2) clopyralid has been found in composts made throughout the U.S. (and elsewhere); (3) the herbicide is damaging to popular garden and agricultural plants at extremely low concentrations; (4) testing for the herbicide is expensive; and (5) compost producers have been forced to bear the responsibility for keeping clopyralid from contaminating compost. As our official policy states (see <http://www.compostingcouncil.org/article.cfm?id=35>), we believe that the clopyralid problem has been unfairly imposed upon the composting industry and that the burden of managing it has been unfairly placed upon compost producers. From our perspective, the situation is analogous to pesticide spray drift. A chemical has been applied on one property and it is injuring other properties due to its uncontrolled migration. Protection against such chemical drift is warranted. Dow AgroSciences, the manufacturer of clopyralid, has offered the composting industry only token and trivial assistance, instead insisting that a problem does not exist. Remedies, such as those proposed by ODA, go a long way in correcting the inequities.

In support of the proposed ODA rules, we submit the following testimony:

- *The prevalence of clopyralid in composts remains an unknown. The DEQ study, monitoring programs in Washington and random testing elsewhere have shown clopyralid to be present in some but not all commercially-produced composts. There has been no real correlation regarding where and why clopyralid persists in compost, although grass clippings and some agricultural residues are clearly sources. At the moment, the only way for a composting facility to determine if clopyralid is present is an extensive and expensive testing program.*
- *Regardless of whether clopyralid is present at a given facility, it has damaged, and continues to damage, consumer confidence in compost products. Previously, users considered compost products naturally safe products, worthy of use in organic food and horticultural systems. Clopyralid has threatened that hard-won image.*
- *The fate and behavior of clopyralid during the composting process has not been well documented. It has been suggested that clopyralid decomposes more slowly in composting systems than in soils but research has not demonstrated whether or not this is true. In any case, we cannot rely on the herbicide being decomposed sufficiently during composting.*

- *The precise levels at which clopyralid is damaging to plants are still being debated among experts. However, there is no debate that the effective levels are very low (>> 50 parts per billion). It has been suggested by proponents of clopyralid that residue of the herbicide in compost is not as damaging as implied because some plant species are not susceptible to the herbicide. Although we agree that compost known to contain clopyralid should be used for non sensitive plants, it is difficult to know what composts contain clopyralid without expensive testing, as mentioned previously. Generally, recommending that all composts be limited to non sensitive plants species is unreasonably restrictive, impractical and an economic hardship.*
- *It has also been suggested that the risk of clopyralid damage is overstated because compost should be blended with soil or other media prior to use. Again, we agree that blending compost with soil lessens the risk of damage, and that in most cases compost should not be used as the sole growing media. However, some compost products have been shown to contain clopyralid at very high levels, such that a growing media with even a small proportion (e.g. 10%) of compost would lead to plant injury. Furthermore, the compost industry cannot depend on compost users to dilute the compost with three*

parts, even two parts, of soil. Some customers prefer to use compost heavily, even though it is not generally recommended. Compost producers strive to educate users on proper application and use of compost. However, a producer cannot control what users do. If clopyralid-tainted compost leads to plant damage, the compost producer will ultimately be held responsible, no matter how poorly the user followed recommended guidelines.

- *Minimizing the presence of clopyralid in feedstocks is the best option for protecting the integrity of compost. Grass clippings have been shown to be the primary source of clopyralid due to the widespread use of the herbicide on turf. Therefore, preventing clopyralid use on turf appears to be a good starting point for reducing clopyralid in the composting feedstock stream. (Although it is not covered in the proposed rules, the USCC is concerned about high levels of clopyralid in agricultural residues, including manure. Test results in Washington have shown agricultural residues to be significant sources of clopyralid. After the current proposed rules have been adopted, we encourage ODA to consider the risks associated with agricultural uses of clopyralid, which affects compost and direct land application of manure.)*

- *The proposed rules restrict clopyralid use on commercial*

and public turf as well as residential lawns. We applaud this broad restriction. It is not only advantageous, it is necessary. While residential grass clippings are certainly a problem, they probably are not the primary problem. Residents have little knowledge of the chemicals applied to their lawns by commercial applicators and thus are likely to ignore the herbicide's label restrictions regarding composting of the clippings. However, we believe that the personnel that manage and maintain commercial and public properties are equally unlikely to be unaware of what chemicals are applied to the turf and what restrictions are in place regarding the disposal of clippings. The people that mow these properties are rarely the same people that apply the chemicals. Often the mowers and chemical applicators are employees of completely different companies. Furthermore, whether the clippings come from residential, commercial or public properties, the destiny of the clippings is typically determined by collection and hauling companies, without the knowledge or consent of the property owners/managers. In all cases, there is a shifting "chain of custody" that makes it difficult to communicate and control how the clippings are recycled or disposed. The only way to keep clopyralid out of yard trimmings compost is to keep it off the turf.

Given the situation outlined by the foregoing points, we feel that the current temporary rules established by ODA are justified, reasonable and effective. Again, we urge ODA to adopt them permanently and continue to protect the integrity of compost, the composting industry and recycling generally. Thank you.

For the U.S. Composting Council,

Kevin Tritz,
President
Stuart Buckner,
Executive Director
Jim McNelly,
Chair, Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee
David Hill,
Chair, Compost Marketing Committee
Jeff Gage,
Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee
Robert Rynk,
Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee

Clopyralid Litigation – August 22, 2003

Several composters filed a class action in an Illinois state court in 2002 against the manufacturer of Clopyralid - DowAgrosciences. The composters seek testing cost reimbursement and buy-back for compost containing Clopyralid. DowAgrosciences, in response to the lawsuit,

removed the case to federal court arguing that the case should be in federal court because the chemical is governed solely by the EPA, and no state court should be allowed to interfere by applying state law. On Friday, August 22, 2003, the federal court sent the case back to state court ruling against DowAgrosciences. The court ruled that Clopyralid can be the subject of a state court action and that the court can apply state law to the issue of whether the product is defective. The law firm representing the composters-Baron and Budd-were pleased with the ruling and now intend to add more composters to the case including the City of Spokane. The composters will now focus on class certification. Composters impacted by Clopyralid issues may contact Scott Summy at Baron & Budd, P.C. (214) 523-6267 or their own legal counsel. Composters may also contact Stuart Buckner, Executive Director of the United States Composting Council at (631) 737-4931 for more information.

Compost Issues - Around the Nation

New York State Law to Address Compost/Fertilizer Conflicts
Ellen Harrison

The primary benefits of compost use are not nutrient additions, as most compost producers already know. Compost does, however, contain nutrients and users need to know about them. A compost pro-

ducer seeking to provide nutrient information must abide by the fertilizer rules in states that have such laws. The rules for fertilizers simply don't work for composts.

Legislators in New York State passed a law in June, after meeting with a group of compost producers, which would exempt compost from the fertilizer law and rules. Current law and rules exempt "unmanipulated animal and vegetable manures," but the NY Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) that administers the rules does not interpret composted manure to fall within that exemption. Thus the new law simply adds "compost resulting from the natural aerobic decomposition of animal or vegetative constituents for the production of a stable, humus-like material to which no additional chemical fertilizer has been added", to the existing list of exemptions.

"Joining the USCC was a 'no-brainer'! The opportunity to interact with the leaders in the compost market at the Annual Conference alone makes our membership worthwhile. We are proud to support the efforts of the USCC and believe that an independent organization is the best way to serve the needs of the growing composting community."

Daniel Waldman
 Publisher
 MSW Management
 Magazine

At this time the bill (A08497) is on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. That may not be a sure thing since there is some concern on the part of the NYSDAM about the law.

The misfits between the fertilizer rules in NYS (which closely follow the national model put out by the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials) are many. That law was designed many years ago to provide assurance to consumers that what they bought contained at least as much nutrient value as the manufacturer claimed. Composts were simply not on the radar screen. Here are some of the problems with trying to fit composts into fertilizer rules:

- Fertilizer nutrient claims are a guaranteed minimum. Compost is not a formulated product, so nutrient levels vary. Under CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feed Operations) rules, a livestock producer distributing composted manure must inform the recipient of the average nutrient value. Such a compost producer could not simultaneously abide by both the fertilizer and CAFO rules!
- If bound by fertilizer rules, composters could not inform users about properties such as organic matter content, pH or maturity.
- Fertilizer rules require sale by weight. Since composts contain moisture and may dry out on the shelf, composters must over pack to be sure they don't fall below the stated weight.
- Fertilizers are used by the pound, composts by the ton, so fees based on weight sold are not equitable.

• Specified test methods for fertilizers are not appropriate for composts, yet the current rules would require them to be used. These are just some of the major issues that make it important to change the current picture.

NYS has not adopted a soil amendment law, while many states have. These laws are also not appropriate for composts and USCC has been working with AAPFCO to try and draft modifications that might work. In the meantime Idaho has amended their soil amendment law to help address composts. The Idaho law allows soil amendments to provide information on an estimated range of nutrient content so long as it is supported by laboratory data. A label must state that "This product is recognized for its soil amendment characteristics. It is recognized that it has nutrient value. Any nutrient claims, verbal or written, are estimates and not guaranteed." We will hopefully see more states adopting laws and regulations that address compost's particular attributes.

Compost Short Course

The Cornell Waste Management Institute (CWMI) is sponsoring a one-time, limited enrollment Compost Advanced Short. The 3 day course (October 27-29, 2003) and one day tour (October 26) will be held in Ithaca, NY. An integrating

theme for the course is Matching Compost Properties and User Needs. Instructors include CWMI staff (Jean Bonhotal, Ellen Harrison and Dan Olmstead), Eric Nelson (Cornell), Tom Richard (Iowa State), Leslie Cooperband (U. Wisconsin), Will Brinton (Woods End Research Lab), Jim Marion (NYS Dept. of Corrections) and Paul Sellev (Synagro). The early registration course fee is \$275. The Tour on October 26 is optional. The fee for the tour is \$55.

For the application form and for more information on the Course and Tour, go to the CWMI site at: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu>

Composting Exam 2003

The US Composting Council's Professional Credentials Committee will again offer a national certification for composting professionals at the annual conference. In partnership with the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), facility operators can now be certified as a Composting Program Manager. The Certification Exam will be offered on Wednesday, January 28th at 9 AM.

More information will be provided in the next issue of the COMPOST COMMUNICATOR and can be found on both the SWANA and USCC websites.

COMPOST COMMUNICATOR
edited by Stu Buckner and Al Rattie

Printing compliments of Cortec Corporation

THE US COMPOSTING COUNCIL'S 12th Annual Conference & Trade Show “Growing the Industry”

January 25-28, 2004

The Tropicana, Las Vegas, Nevada

Pre-Conference Workshops and Training Opportunities

Marketing Training Seminar

Compost Tea Workshop

Backyard Composting Workshop

REGISTER TODAY: Go to www.compostingcouncil.org or call the USCC at 631-737-4931
Exhibitor Information and Sponsorship Opportunities are also available on the USCC website
www.compostingcouncil.org or call the USCC at the number listed above

Current Conference Sponsors Include:



CH2M Hill



ALLU Group

BioCycle



Waste
Management

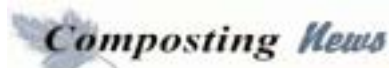


NRG
Processing
Solutions



Kessler Consulting

ROTO-MIX



Synagro



Sheremeta Env't'l
Consultants



Proctor &
Gamble