

COMPOSTING

ESTABLISHING A HIGH VALUE POULTRY WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITY

Breys Egg Farm, Jeffersonville, Sullivan County



Composting facility at Brey Poultry Farm.



Newly built Coverall building for all-season composting.

Composting was used as a strategy to convert 60,000 pounds of chicken manure produced annually.

OBJECTIVES

- Establish an effective and energy-efficient composting process for chicken manure.
- Develop a strategy to turn 60,000 pounds of chicken manure produced annually into a marketable commodity.
- Eliminate need for chemical fly control.

OVERVIEW

Breys Egg Farm is a third-generation, family owned and operated egg farm in Sullivan County. Expanding residential development and subsequent reduction in farmland across the state has made field spreading of manure harder due to high cost of hauling, nuisance complaints, and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) regulations. Composting was chosen as a manure management method for this farm. A compost pad was constructed using NYSERDA funds, and consultants from county and state agencies, as well as Cornell University, helped Breys Egg Farm develop a compost management strategy.

OUTCOME

The ability of farm operators to effectively manage the compost facility was restricted due to a particularly severe winter. The farm owner, Dan Brey, estimated that formerly the site was unmanageable approximately 75% of the year. Currently, a Coverall facility is being constructed with funding from Empire State Development and some composting is now taking place indoors, so inclement weather will be less of an issue in the future. Brey also found a source of woodchips that, when mixed with manure, will permit less frequent turning. The farmer also chose a new windrow turner that manages larger piles, and will allow higher temperatures during the winter months.

Contact Information:

Rick Bishop, Sullivan Co. Planning and Economic Development
reb@health.co.sullivan.ny.us; (845) 794-3000.

