

COMPOSTING

DEMONSTRATING POULTRY WASTE DRYING AND COMPOSTING

Kreher's Poultry Farm, Clarence, Erie County



Poultry manure compost windrow



Automated turning system at Kreher's Poultry Farm

Frequent automated turning dries poultry manure, creating a high quality fertilizer product.

OBJECTIVE

Demonstrate an innovative method to dry and stabilize poultry manure into a form suitable for marketing.

OVERVIEW

Farms are under increasing pressure to control odor and contaminants from manure. This is particularly important for poultry manure, which is high in nitrogen. State regulations require all concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) to have an Agricultural Waste Management Plan. Implementing these plans requires new investment to manage manure and may potentially increase energy usage on farms. Kreher's Poultry Farms is a large egg farm in Clarence (Erie County) with over 500,000 hens and is designated as a CAFO. At Kreher's, the poultry manure is gathered using a dry collection process, but needs further drying and stabilization to prepare it for marketing as a fertilizer substitute. This project, a full-scale composting operation, is being demonstrated using windrows of lighter-colored fresh manure that are converted into a brown granular product. This is accomplished by frequent turning in an automatic turning machine that runs along the bays separating the windrows in the composting building. Innovations in the turning machine were developed based on experience gained from a smaller composting operation at the farm.

OUTCOME

The new compost operation, with the new automatic compost turner, has been installed and is producing good quality product. These innovations were found to be successful in making good product, and the compost turner previously used in the smaller building has been retrofitted to the new style. Data collection is underway to document the effectiveness of this operation.

Contact Information:

Hal Kreher (716) 759-6802

