

Ridgetown College Compost Project Photo Gallery



Figure 1. Building housing the compost channels and mechanical turner.



Figure 2. Liquid manure stored in underground tank near compost building - pumped to turner as needed - drainage liquid was returned to this storage.



Figure 3. Straw bales used in compost process.



Figure 4. Applying liquid manure to straw while turning.



Figure 5. Turner in channel after heating has started and some settling of straw.



Figure 6. Overview of 3 channels - showing different carbon materials: straw, corn stalks and wood fibre.



Figure 7. Turner at end of channel - partly composted straw + pig manure.



Figure 8. Thermometer showing typical temperature reached after 2 days - usual range is 55 to 70°C from day 3 to about day 14.



Figure 9. Removing partially finished compost from channels at about the 14-day stage - prior to the "curing" stage.



Figure 10. Compost as it comes out of the channels, before the curing stage - this was made using straw.



Figure 11. Curing pile - in this case, the pile is in the shape of a windrow, but that is not necessary. Curing is usually complete when the total compost time is about 12 weeks.



Figure 12. Finished compost, made using wood chips, was used as a garden mulch in several flower beds at the college. The wood took longer to break down, but made a good mulch product.