

Newspaper Bedding Makes Dollars

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then spread on the fields.

Further research at Penn State has shown that there is a very low concentration of heavy metals. PSU researchers found there was a higher level of heavy metals in the manure from straw bedding than in the manure from newsprint.

In other studies it was shown that mastitis bacteria grew slower in kiln-dried sawdust and in newspaper than in other types of bedding.

"Straw doesn't keep the cows as dry as the newspaper," said Berry. "Newspaper really soaks it up."

Berry prefers a mix of newspaper bedding and straw or corn fodder. Bedding which is 70 percent shredded newspaper and 30 per-

cent corn fodder or straw or some other material works best for Berry.

"Where I used four bales of straw, now I use newspaper and one bale of straw. And if you are looking at \$100 a ton for straw or prices are high for sawdust that's a big savings," explained Berry.

"In my pens and freestalls I like to blow in the newspaper and then blow in corn fodder or straw on top of it. Then when the cows walk on it they mix it up," said Berry.

For \$1,500 Berry purchased a small bale chopper. Newspapers (newspapers only, no magazines) are dropped directly into the bin and in a few minutes thirty stalls are covered with a thick, fluffy dry bedding.

Although other types of paper have been tested for bedding there are some problems. Magazines, especially high-gloss magazines have a higher residue of heavy metals and trace elements.

There is also the problem of staples found in some magazines and cardboard. For information on using other materials such as Xerox paper and computer paper contact your local county extension agent.

Berry has found that the mix of newspaper with other materials makes the bedding less fluffy and keeps it in place. Fluffy bedding has tendency to not stay in the beds. This is the only disadvantage of the newsprint Berry has found.

Recycling Newspapers Benefits Everyone

Mandatory recycling in some communities has increased interest in newsprint for bedding in animal agriculture. Recycling newspapers helps farmers by providing a low-cost bedding while it relieves the overburdened landfills from thousands of tons of paper.

Pennsylvania Act 101 of 1988, The Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, requires 407 Pennsylvania municipalities to recycle. Communities gearing up to meet this requirement usually include paper as part of their recycling program. These communities as well as communities in several other states requiring recycling programs have placed huge quantities of paper on the market. Presently many recycling coordinators are looking for new uses of this material.

According to the Department of Environmental Resources Bureau of Waste Management, the average Pennsylvania family of four produces about three tons of garbage per year. At this rate the Commonwealth's 75 landfills will be filled to capacity less than five years.

A Snyder County dairyman who has used paper bedding for eight years reports he uses 300-400 pounds per day for 170 free stalls housing his herd (2-3 pounds per animal per day).

At a rate of 2-3 pounds per day, if all dairy and beef producers in the Commonwealth recycled newspaper for bedding it would utilize only one-third of the states total of 3.5 million tons of used newsprint.

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Chopping paper to this size makes it easily dissolved in the manure system and spreads well in the field.



One-year ago Jim Berry bought this small bale chopper for nearly \$1,500. Paper is loaded directly into the bin. Berry prefers a mix of 70 percent paper to 25 percent straw or fodder. The mix of other bedding material helps to keep the fluffy bedding in its place in the bed.



Jim Berry loads the small bale chopper with newspaper and blows plenty of clean, dry, fluffy bedding into his freestall area in minutes. Berry is anxious to use more newspaper for bedding, but needs a steady supply of newspaper.

Interested In Newspaper Bedding?

Farmers interested in recycling newspaper for bedding should contact their county extension agent. Agents can discuss use and preparation of newsprint.

Contact local solid waste officials. They have a large source of newspaper available for recycling and the newsprint may be available free of charge. However, the farmer may incur costs for local hauling.

Also, recycling centers may shred newspapers and offer bales for a small fee. Although some commercial recycling centers no longer accept newspapers for recycling because there has been no outlet for them, if they know there is a market for them they may be able to provide a collection and processing point for newsprint recycling. They can be found in the yellow pages of your telephone book under 'recycling'.

According to county extension recommendations, strips 8-10 inches long and about 1/4" to 3/4" wide work best. Longer strips track or move too much with animal movement, while shorter ones pose a blowing problem in the bedded area.

Heavy-duty paper shredders are available for use by paper processing centers. If further processing of these bales is needed small bale busters or shredders, as used for straw or corn fodder, may be employed at the farm.

Bale choppers can cost between \$1,500 and \$5,500. If necessary, forage harvestors may be used at the farm to prepare newspapers for bedding with some modifications to produce bedding of desirable proportions.

For further information on recycling newspapers for bedding contact your county's recycling coordinators or the one closest to you:

Allegheny
Donald Berman, (412) 355-5594.
Armstrong
Jeanine Wolanski, (412) 458-3223.
Beaver
Richard Packer, (412) 728-5700.
Bucks
Chuck Raudenbush, (215) 249-0487.
Cambria
Bradford Beigay, (814) 472-5440.
Centre
Irene Ferrara, (814) 238-7005.
Chester

Paul Bickhart, (215) 431-8464.
Clinton
Fred Teti, (717) 769-6977.
Cumberland
Robert J. Middleton, (717) 240-6379.
Dauphin
Keith Ashley, (717) 234-1850.
Delaware
Tom Kelber, (215) 891-4668.
Fayette
Vincent Vicites, (412) 430-1210.
Greene
Valerie Cole, (412) 852-1171.
Indiana
George Hurd, (412) 465-3870.
Lancaster
Jim Warner, (717) 397-9968.
Lawrence
Amy Jo Labi-Carando, (412) 658-2541.
Luzerne
Frank Chadwick, (717) 825-1560.
Luzerne
Wilkes-Barre
John Bergold, (717) 826-8287.
Lackawanna
Joyce Hatala, (717) 963-6810.
Lehigh
Patti Iannelli, (215) 437-7760.
Lycoming
Robert McCullough, Jr., (717) 327-2360.
Montgomery
Michael Stokes, (215) 278-3729.
Monroe
Jane Meeks, (717) 421-7301.
Montour
Stephen Bennick, (215) 686-8298.
Northern Tier
David Terrill, (717) 638-2107.
Philadelphia
Alfred Dezzi, (215) 686-8298.
Potter
Lowell Ayers, (814) 274-8254.
Somerset
Frank Burggraf, (814) 445-7301.
Susquehanna
Lee Benedict, (717) 278-4600.
Washington
Marlene Hohn, (412) 228-6811.
Wayne
Veronica Habertuer, (717) 278-4600.
Westmoreland
Lynn Showalter, (412) 834-2191.
York
Mary Jane Rodkey, (717) 845-1066.