

# Composting Success

(Continued from Page C4)

Joy. There, four windrows are made and turned about three times a day. Zurin manages about 285 cows, about 300 steers, and a large poultry operation.

The piles are worked twice a day by a 60 HP turbodiesel windrow turner (cost is about \$25,000). Zurin began composting the manure, which is marketed off the farm, about three years ago, after realizing that he had to deal with the amount of manure generated on the 500-acre farm.

The solids are separated by the dairy manure. The liquid, from a 500,000-gallon holding tank, is applied to the fields. The solids are extracted and worked into the windrows for composting.

## Cost-Sharing

At the meeting, Cary Oshins reviewed some of the registration fees that are applicable to certain operations. Also, Don Robinson, administrator for the Lancaster County Conservation District, spoke about several cost-share opportunities in composting operations.

The following methods may be used by those who want to begin composting operations as a way to

obtain financing:

- Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP) monies, from the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (former title, ACSC). Funding source is USDA. Limit is \$3,500 per person per year. A "long-term agreement" or LTA is available at a maximum of \$17,500, three to five years, but is very limited. Sign-up in Lancaster is at the Farm and Home Center office. Cost-share rates are 50-75 percent and can "piggyback" on Chesapeake Bay funds. The NRCS (formerly SCS) provides technical assistance.

- The Chesapeake Bay Program is another source of funding, available from your county conservation district. Maximum is \$30,000 per farm of cost-share assistance. Sign-up is at the conservation district office. The same cost-share rates apply, 50 percent for manure storages, and 75 percent most others. Technical work is done by the Bay engineer and technicians and by NRCS.

- DER Act 101 of the Municipal Waste Plan. This refers to Act 101 of Sect. 902. Municipalities can apply to purchase composting equipment and other facilities, and an agreement is made between the

farmer and municipality to allow the farmer to use the equipment. Contact your regional DER office.

- Robinson indicated that plans are being considered for the state's Nutrient Management Act regulations to possibly allow some cost-share monies for composting oper-

ations. More information will be available when the regulations are finalized.

- Farmers in the Lancaster County Pequea-Mill Creek Watershed Program may also

qualify, through ASCS, for a five-year LTA, with a maximum of \$17,500 per farm, for a composting operation. Sign up by contacting the Pequea-Mill Creek office in Smoketown.



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Manzate 200 DF.....6 Lb.	\$21.60
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