

COMPOSTING

Type	Municipal Composting Facility	Food waste is 'recycled' as livestock feed	On-site composting (in-vessel)
What it is	<p>Currently the only municipal composting facility in our region is in Hutchinson (<i>Creekside Soils</i>)</p> <p>Transportation fees make this a costly option teams who are not nearby.</p>	<p>Currently being implemented in the St. Paul Public school district as well as many businesses in that area. According to the MN TAP (Minnesota Technical Assistance Program, based out of the University of MN) data – there are several farms that have already acquired the necessary permits to accept food-waste (see Tbl. 1).</p>	<p>Several options exist – but in-vessel mid-scale composting allows waste to be composted in a contained, and therefore, regulated environment near the origin i.e. behind the school.</p>
Action steps	<p>Encouraging your municipality to offer this is certainly a great option for concerned citizens at this time.</p>	<p>Teams should be aware that since the food-waste is being diverted to livestock particular precautions need to be made, including: collecting waste in designated bins, transporting waste in a heated truck that allows the food to be 'cooked' at 212°F for 30 minutes, and served at farm with necessary permits from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.</p>	<p>Please refer to the <i>FoodWise: Food Waste in Schools Elimination Handbook</i> manual published by Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center (a future partner of YES) as a guide to both reducing your food waste and managing it through composting.</p> <p>Further information also listed below</p>
Your allies <i>(those who have experience with this method)</i>	<p>Hutchinson High School FFA and YES! team</p>	<p>St. Paul Public schools; Redwood Falls team is looking into this option as well.</p>	<p>You would currently be the first YES team to tackle this project – however places such as Eagle Bluff ELC and Laverme's Worms can offer a lot of insight into what works and doesn't work with these systems.</p>

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Recycling food waste as livestock feed

The following is an excerpt from the MN Board of Animal Health found under the 'swine division':

No person may feed garbage to livestock or poultry in Minnesota *unless a permit has been obtained from the Board of Animal Health*. Once a permit to feed cooked garbage is granted, the premise is inspected by a Board of Animal Health representative on a monthly basis. All garbage fed to livestock must be cooked at 212 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes. There are nine producers in Minnesota who have obtained permits from the Board to feed garbage to swine.

Livestock producers may also apply to the Board for an "Exempt Materials" permit. Such a permit allows producers to feed certain non-meat food waste ("exempt materials") to livestock and poultry without cooking it prior to feeding. There are 17 producers who have obtained permits from the Board to feed exempt materials.

"MNTAP," Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (see next page) offers a current listing on which farms already have permits. Discussion this option with local hog farmers is a possibility if one does not currently exist in your area.

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Table 1

City Livestock Producers with *Exempt Permits

* Exempt Materials Permit Holder Non-meat food by-products must have had no possibility of coming into contact with meat for an exempt materials permit holder to accept it.

Boyd Exetare Farm	320.669.3300
Cambridge Dalroy Stachowski, No Rest Ranch	612.689.4615
Chatfield Horseshoe Hill Ranch	507.867.4181
Eagle Bend Roger Bryniarski, B&B Cattle Company	218.738.4899
Elk River Jesse James Jones, Triple J Farms	763.441.2437
Mazepa Michael Vreeman, Vreeman Farms	507.367.2395
Menahga Dave & Marci Sabin, Shell River Farms	218.564.5919
Motley Tri-County Cattle Company, Inc.	218.352.6546
Oak Park Irvin Robinson, Robinson Farms	320.968.6662
Oronoco Ed Wittlief, Black Bear Farms	507.202.9664
Osakis Tom Ludwig	320.859.3127
Princeton A Vandeer Veer Shirley Farm	763.633.9663
Spring Valley Jesse, King Lester	507.378.5421

MnTAP has a variety of technical assistance services available to help Minnesota businesses implement industry-tailored solutions that maximize resource efficiency, prevent pollution, increase energy efficiency, and reduce costs. Our information resources are available online at <mntap.umn.edu>. Please call MnTAP at 612.624.1300 or 800.247.0015 for personal assistance or more information.

Garbage Feeder Permit Holders* (meat and non-meat)

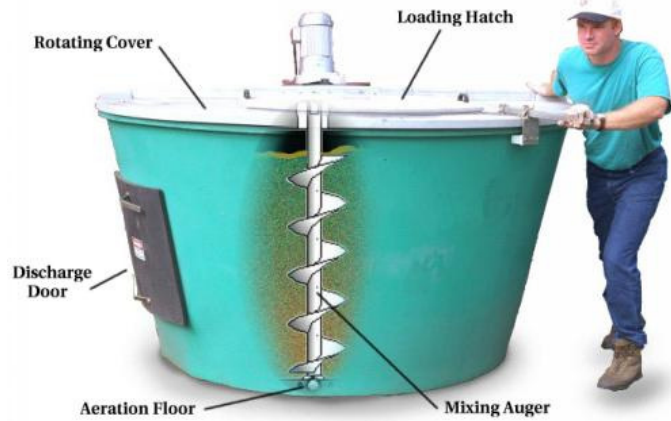
*Permit holders can accept meat by-products and other food by-products that may have come into contact with meat. For example, produce from a supermarket can only be given to a garbage feeder permit holder. Because meat is also at the supermarket, produce may have come in contact with it.

Askov Mary & Michael Gibson, M & M Hog Farm	320.838.3603
Cedar Curt Johnson, Second Harvest Farms, Inc.	763.434.9044
Isanti Scott & Tom Johnson, Johnson Farms	763.444.9364
Isanti Leroy Johnson, Stratton Farms	612.444.9828
Ogilvie Thomas Yotter, Full Circle Family Farms	320.396.2208
St. Francis Peter Barthold, Barthold Farm, Inc.	763.286.4466
Winona Richard & Susan Gallien, The Winona Farm	507.454.3126



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In-vessel composting



Earth Tub

ACGC is constructing an Earth Tub this season. YES is also currently looking into acquiring an Earth Tub for a team that is looking into piloting a composting program in their school this year.

We are also researching its use in the Minnesota climate.

Reminder:

*Food waste is considered a “green” when composting - maintaining a balance between your ‘greens’ and ‘browns’ is important in the efficacy of the vessel. **Sawdust** has been recommended as a great brown for these vessels. Paper towels have been found to ‘gum up’ in the system and newspaper is not advised due to its clay content. Contact local lumber yards for their sawdust leftovers.*

Mantis Twin composting vessel

Purchased last year by the GFW, they will start to use it this year for their school’s food waste.



Worm-bin

Examples: Worm WigWam (pictured) used at Eagle Bluff ELC or Laverme’s Worms in the Duluth area and mentioned at last year’s Winter Workshop.

This has been advised for use in homes or strictly food preparation and salad bar waste. Worms have a very specific diet and contamination with foods they don’t like can greatly affect the efficacy of the bin.

