

Original: 2513

Shomper, Kris

From: Glenn Cote [lvalley1@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2006 10:26 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Manure Handling Certification

Greetings,

I would like comment on the manure certification program to be enacted on February 26, 2006. We are a large mushroom composting operation in Southern Chester County. We receive 500 tons of poultry litter per week from Pennsylvania poultry farms. These operators are small independently owned companies that cleanout and haul the material to our and other local farms. The program as it stands is a huge burden on these operators in the level of training and the cost of the certification that is required. Many of the operators have problems with getting labor to do this type of work. Certification for haulers would be burdensome as these employees are constantly turning over and new training will be time consuming and prohibitive and costly. Our concern is an interruption in the continuous supply of manure to our operation due to lack of certified drivers to do the hauling. The build up of material could be a problem also from the producers side. In addition, the time line for compliance and training is very short and will be difficult to meet before February 26.

Most haulers I have spoken to would prefer to build on the voluntary program now being used from Penn State. I urge the PDA to look into the possibility of adopting a permanent program like this one to address the growing issue of manure hauling and nutrient application in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Glenn Cote
General Manager
Laurel Valley Farms
Avondale, Pennsylvania

1/17/2006