

Date:
March, 2010

Meeting the Regs with Manure & Compost

Relevant Regs

Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR)

www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/regs/ag_waste_control/index.htm

This regulation establishes practices for storing, composting and land application of agricultural waste, including manure.

Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR)

www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/omr/index.htm

This regulation governs the production, quality and land application of some types of organic matter in B.C. including the production and use of compost.

Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation

www.alc.gov.bc.ca/legislation/Reg/ALR_Use-Subd-Proc_Reg.htm

This regulation outlines permitted uses for land in the agricultural land reserve, including requirements for composting on ALR land.

Objectives

For the last 2 years, a study of the improved management of manure and compost was taken on by the Peace River Forage Association of BC. Through the lessons learned about equipment, handling manure and compost, the process and the quality of product that we were able to produce, we realize there is great potential for the use of these organic materials.

The objectives here are to explore the relevant regulations for the process and transport of manure and compost.

We asked for Ruth McDougall's assistance as she has had years of experience working with several commercial composting projects. Ruth is a Professional Agrologist and home based consultant working out of Vernon, BC.

Regulations for producing & distributing compost or manure in B.C.

In a nutshell: if you compost your own manure and use the compost on your own property or distribute it, regulatory requirements are minimal. The same applies if you bring in manure from elsewhere to compost for use on your property only. However, if you bring in manure from another farm for composting, and then distribute the compost elsewhere, the regulatory requirements become more complicated.

A few of the key requirements for composting and transporting organic materials like manure and compost are outlined in the following 4 scenarios using a question and answer format.



Scenario #1:

Rancher Rick: "Is there any difference, in terms of regs that we need to meet, if we are handling raw manure, partially composted manure, or finished high quality compost?"

Reggy Ruth: "As long as you are using the material on your farm, the regulations do not differentiate between manure, partial compost or finished compost. However you cannot bring manure from another farm and redistribute it using your farm as a storage point, under any B.C. Regulation."

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P.R.F.A. of BC:

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of British Columbia



