



JEFFERSON COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Agriculture Newsletter 2016



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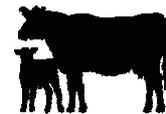
Farm Plan Writing Workshop

Thursday, March 31st
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

At the Jefferson Conservation District

Located ¼ mile North of I-80, Exit 81 (Hazen)
on Route 28 in front of the Jefferson County
Fairgrounds

State regulations require farmers to have
written plans that address soil & manure
management. This workshop will provide you
with a better understanding of the regulations,
and show you how to complete a Manure
Management Plan and an Agricultural Erosion &
Sedimentation Control Plan for your farm. Free
soil test kits will be available.



Free to attend; refreshments provided.

**To register, please contact the District
by March 29th at (814) 849 – 7463**

*Financial support for this project is provided by the
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
through the Clean Water Fund.*





What is it?

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is administered by the Farm Service Agency. It's a program that provides an annual payment to producers and landowners that establish and maintain specific practices on their land for 10-15 years in an effort to conserve and enhance their land. Up to 100% of the costs to install the practices may also be reimbursed, along with cash incentive payments. If you haven't had the chance to visit the program's new website at www.creppa.org, a few details on the program are listed below.

Who can apply?

The program targets landowners with non-forested areas along waterways and highly erodible land (HEL) for enrollment.

What type of practices can I apply for?

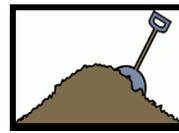
-  Native Tree & Shrub Plantings
-  Grass Plantings
-  Grassed Waterway
-  Contour Grass Strips
-  Filter Strips
-  Stream Crossings for Livestock
-  Streambank Fencing
-  Livestock Watering Systems
-  Wetland Restoration

How do I apply?

For more information or to apply, contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA):
478 Jeffers St. Dubois, PA 15801
(814) 375 – 1297 ext. 103.



Financial and other support for the CREP Outreach Program Office Mini-Grant Program is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a Growing Greener Watershed Protection grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection with additional support from USDA-NRCS.



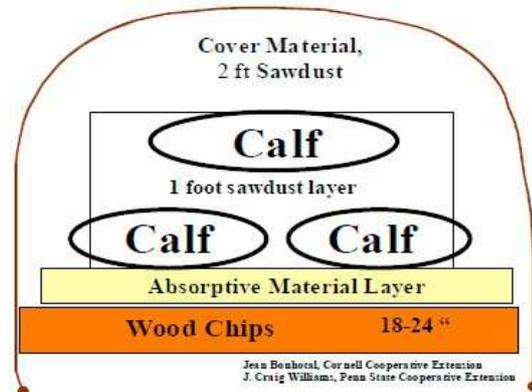
The Basics of Composting

The PA Domestic Animal Act requires that domestic animal mortalities be disposed of within 48 hours. Burial, rendering, incineration, and composting are all legal options of disposal. However, composting is often the more preferable choice as it is an easy, low-cost method of disposal that can be done year-around.

Composting involves the mixing of a high carbon material (i.e., woodchips) with a nitrogen material (i.e., livestock). An optimal C:N (Carbon to Nitrogen) ratio is 25:1 in order for microbes to efficiently help break down material. Listed on the following page are a few general guidelines on how to properly compost your animals.

- When determining a mortality composting location, choose a well-drained area that is at least 200' away from water sources.
- Start with a 2' layer of a bulky material high in carbon in a 5-7' wide windrow.
- Place the mortality in the middle of the pile. The abdomen can be cut to speed up decomposition, and to prevent bloating which can cause cover material to come off and expose the animal.
- Do not stack large animal mortalities on top of one another.
- Cover the mortality with 2' of compostable material (ex: dry silage bed-pack, green sawdust, finished compost from another pile, hay).
- Allow the pile to sit for 3 – 12 months, depending on the size of the livestock. Larger animals need more time to decompose.
- Turn the compost to see if the animal has completely degraded. Note: bones of mature animals may still remain.
- Internal temperatures of the compost should reach ~140-160°F. Temperatures at this level help kill off pathogens. The heat is the result bacterial activity aiding in decomposition.
- Once the mortality has fully decomposed, the compost can be field applied or used as material in another compost pile.

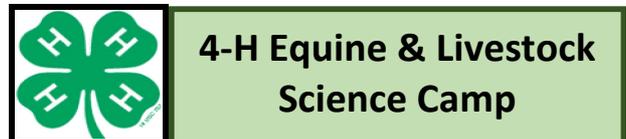
Figure 1: Diagram showing how to compost multiple calves.



For more specific information, visit the resources listed below.

Resources

- Mortality Composting Guidelines <http://extension.psu.edu/animals/health/composting/mortality-composting-guidelines>
- Horse Mortality: Carcass Disposal Alternatives <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/horseefs.pdf>
- Composting Livestock: A new solution to an old problem <http://leopard.iastate.edu>



When: May 20th, 4:30 PM – May 22nd, 2:00 PM

Where: Penn State University, Park Avenue, University Park, PA 16802

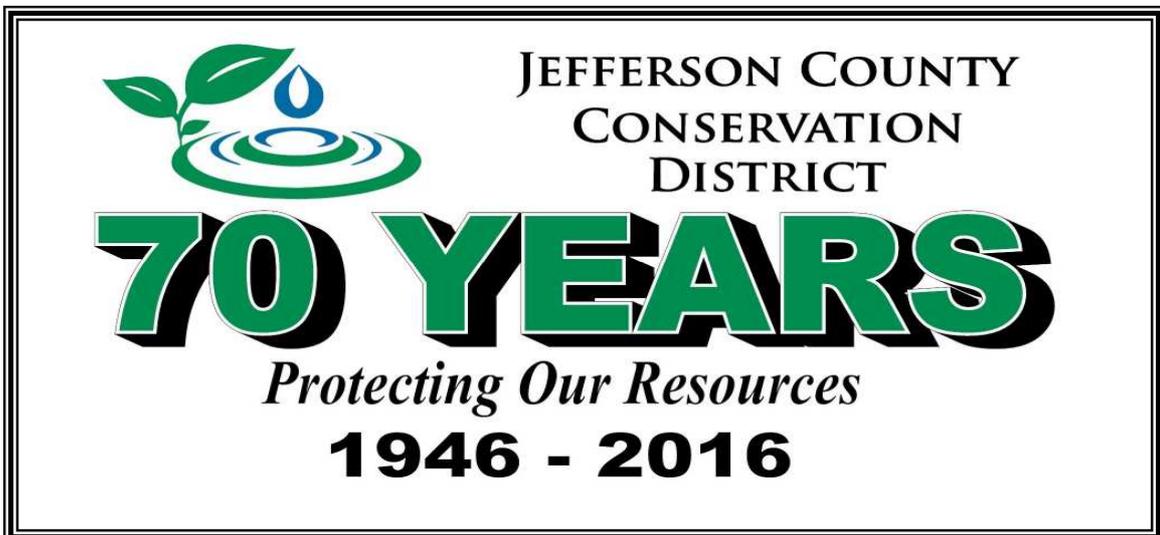
4-H Equine & Livestock Science Camp is a hands-on, science-focused residential camp for 4-H members who are enrolled in an animal science project and who are between the ages of 13 and 18 as of January 1, 2016. Screened 4-H volunteers or Extension staff are welcome to register as chaperones for this event.

Cost is \$200.00 to attend, registration required by April 15th. For more information or to register, visit the Penn State Extension website: <http://extension.psu.edu/4-h/events>

Plan to Attend!



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At District Office



Jefferson Conservation District
1514 Route 28
Brookville, PA 15825