

Discussion and Action Items

Composting Presentation

Stacy Grillo, Somerset County Recycling Coordinator and Ross Hull from NIIDEP gave a presentation on composting in municipalities. Yard waste disposal is becoming an issue and cost with some towns. Municipalities would collect the leaves and yard waste that farmers may want to use on their land. This is being done by farmers in Gloucester and Mercer counties. The County would be the link between the farmer and [municipality. There are 3 exemptions for Farmers:

1. mulching
2. composting
3. composting with leaves

One of the requirements would be a maximum of six inches of leaves per land area and it has to be tilled by March/April.

The farmers are concerned about the amount of garbage mixed in with the leaves.

Tony McCracken said it would be nice if the County Health Office could make occasional spot checks to make sure the contracts are being adhered to.

Stacy said the Somerset County Business Partnership did a study into the cost and there is a necessity for someone to take these leaves.

Ross would like feedback from the farmers and maybe have a farmer come in and give a brief 10-minute discussion on the benefits of composting leaves.

Migliaccio Document Review

Marci Green, from the State Agriculture Development Board, stated the Right to Farm Act currently does not protect equine service activities, such as boarding, riding lessons, or activities such as summer camps. The SADC has been working on a rule that would extend the protections to some equine service activities, but this rule has not yet been adopted. The only equine activities that the Act protects at this time are production activities, such as breeding and training horses that the farm owner owns, for the purpose of resale. With this in mind the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board does not have jurisdiction over Migliaccio's issues,