

Manure Exchange Program



The Manure Exchange connects those wanting sources of local, free, manure/compost with livestock owners/managers who have more fresh or composted manure than they need.

Start with the Basics:

□ About the Manure Exchange Program

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) provides the Manure Exchange as a free service to benefit gardeners, farmers, and livestock owners.

This is a “no guarantees, use at your own risk” service. Manure and compost are generally not certified to be weed-free or organic. The material may not be suitable for all intended uses.

Providers are not responsible for hauling costs or any costs associated with vehicle/dump-truck rentals, etc. This is a voluntary, community project, so please be considerate of those participating in this service.

□ Risks to Using Manure or Compost

Invasive Weeds

Invasive weed seeds can be a common contaminant in manure and compost. The number of weed seeds present in manure and compost depends greatly upon the livestock type, feed source, bedding material, and compost time.

Composting manure can dramatically reduce the number of weed seeds present, but this requires reaching and maintaining temperatures high enough to kill seeds.

Persistent Herbicides

There are risks to using manure and compost because some herbicides persist through the composting cycle. Those persistent herbicides may affect plants if the herbicides are in the manure/compost you apply.

Disease

Manure may carry animal diseases and viruses. Treat all areas of the site as if it were contaminated with bad bugs and take precautions not to expose yourself to them or carry them to another site. Identify and use an EPA-approved disinfectant.



Manure composting system



Low tech rain cover



Finding end users

☐ **Quality of Material**

Is it Fertilizer, Compost, or Mulch?

Nitrogen is an essential nutrient required by plants to grow. Raw manure is higher in nitrogen and other nutrients, but also presents more risk because of weeds and pathogens.

High-quality compost at the proper 30-to-1 carbon-to-nitrogen ratio will release nitrogen and other nutrients slowly to soil and plants; it is a relatively inert material and a great soil building amendment.

Finished compost made from parent material that was dominated by carbon such as wood chip bedding is better to use as a mulch cover to suppress weeds. Using a high-carbon, low-nitrogen material as compost will tend to rob the soil of nitrogen.

How to Test Compost for Herbicide Residue

A commercial laboratory that tests for herbicides is Pacific Agricultural Laboratory. Contact them at <http://pacaglab.com/> or 503-626-7943.

You can perform a simple bioassay at home. Directions for this test may be found at: <https://www.rodalorganiclifec.com/garden/do-you-need-test-your-compost-contaminants>

☐ **Want to Participate?**

If you have extra manure or compost and wish to participate in the Manure Exchange Program, please use our Manure Provider Intake Form located on our website <https://conservationdistrict.org>.

By submitting this form, you give consent to Clackamas SWCD to share the information with others for the purpose of exchanging manure/ compost.

To the extent allowed by law, Clackamas SWCD will seek to keep your information confidential.

Helpful resources:

Invasive Weeds:

Compost Site Management - <https://bit.ly/2XlwasT>

Persistent Herbicides:

National Pesticide Information Center -

<https://bit.ly/2TZg31H>

US Composting Council - <https://bit.ly/2E2Vkn8>

Read: Herbicide Carryover in Hay, Manure, Compost, and Grass Clippings

Disease:

EPA Registered Disinfectants - <https://bit.ly/2tzbRdO>

EPA Animal Health - <https://bit.ly/2GY8KnI>

Composting Resources:

Agricultural Composting and Water Quality -

<https://bit.ly/2TdZSR6>

Bioassay Test for Herbicide Residue in Compost -

<https://bit.ly/2Teo8T2>

Manure Spreading:

Oregon Department of Agriculture Manure Spreading

Advisory - <https://bit.ly/2NqzzC4>

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District does not guarantee the quality of the manure provided under this program, or guarantee any particular result for its use. Under no circumstances shall Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District be responsible for any loss or damage caused by or resulting from the exchange of manure under this program.



Visit conservationdistrict.org to learn more about our conservation program and additional services offered by the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.

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