The Whole Picture

Building Compost in Western Canada
NOW THEN, DOES ANYONE HAVE TO GO POTTY BEFORE OUR PRESENTATION BEGINS?

Once a dad, always a dad.
Production of Organic Waste in Alberta

- 2,400,000mt Cities
- 3,000,000mt Feedlots
- 3,000,000mt other ILO’s
- 1,370,000mt Forestry
- 9,770,000mt annually
Where can it go in Alberta?

- Horticultural business
- Landfill covers
- Mining sites
- Forestry sites
- Roadways
- 860,000 acres reclamation
- 27,000,000 acres farm land
Waste Disposal to Nutrient Management

- Economics
- Improve Public Perception
- Contribution to Sustainable Systems
- Environmental Regulations

- So, let’s all hit the road in our mobile offices...
Economics

• Costs of production
• Public vs. Private
• Municipal vs. Agricultural
• Cost of Infrastructure
• Staffing
• Freight
• Application
• Ag uses vs. Higher end sales
Public Perception

Need to spread knowledge – as an industry
Feedstock source does not matter
End result is what is important
Educate on benefits
Contribution to Sustainable Systems

• Soil health, micro fauna, OM, porosity, disease suppression etc, AS WELL AS nutrients
• Again, it is about education of audience
Environmental Regulations

• Federal and Provincial
• Govern production, quality, safety and rates
• All good things, but also need to state benefits
Governing Entities

- AENV (AOPA)
- CCME
- CFIA
- NRCB
- OCIA
Contradictory regs

• With each other

• With industry growth
e.g. Can’t move lesser grade products without prohibitive costs (Private vs. Public)
Obstacles

CFIA sets maximum rates
Municipal maximums based on “waste” rather than “resource”
450tDM/ha/45 yrs = 10tDM/ha/yr
= 6t/ac/yr @30% moisture
AOPA sets maximum rates (Ag)
Agricultural maximums based on soil nutrient content
CCME

5 turns in 15 days
Maturity definition?
Takes 7-10 days to kill weeds
Turning cools down core, so less weed kill if turned too fast
How to deal with organics

We must promote what our products CAN do, not any inherent negatives

Products must meet customers’ requirements, not what is convenient for the processor
How to deal with organics

Need to promote productivity
i.e. We are increasing biomass, not just adding nutrients
We are not adding contaminants, we are mitigating contaminant problems
Any amendment is good, it’s simply a matter of just HOW good!
What is the difference?

Each industry and business within it has its own unique problems and opportunities.
We are all regulated by similar but varying bodies
WE ARE ALL THE SAME!
(We can make ANYTHING grow!)
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