

Comprehensive Training in Compost Production and Marketing

ACS Compost Workshops provide training in the best methods for converting agricultural waste and organic matter into highly effective organic fertilizer. ACS Compost Workshops are located near compost production facilities that practice the Advanced Composting System principles. During visits to the compost site we will demonstrate what was taught in the classroom in a real work environment. Our updated curriculum expands the hands-on time at the compost site to increase the confidence level of participants so that they can go home and produce highly effective organic compost. Compost site demonstrations include windrow building, compost turning, watering and microbial inoculation techniques, and the use of compost process monitoring instruments. The sessions also include production troubleshooting as well as the tips on increasing compost quality without increasing the cost. It is the combination of classroom instruction and compost site work that make the ACS Compost Workshops an effective way for you to get started or improve your existing operations.

Day 1

8:00 Registration
8:30 **Workshop Orientation & Goals**
9:40 **Overview of the Composting Process**
— *Compost Production Basics*
10:20 **The Science of Composting**
11:00 **Compost Production Basics Video**
11:20 **Group Review of Points Learned So Far**
11:35 **Review Additional Questions**
12:00 Lunch
1:00 **Compost Site Visit**
— *Basics of Windrow Building, Turning, Process Monitoring*
2:30 Leave Compost Site
3:15 **The Production of Humified Compost (Part 1)**
— *Develop Windrow Recipes*
— *Phases of the Composting Process*
— *Monitoring the Composting Process*
5:15 **Group Review of Compost Production Basics**
6:00 **Adjourn**

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Day 2

7:30 Rolls & Coffee
7:45 Group Review of Points Learned So Far
8:00 **The Production of Humified Compost (Part 1)**
9:15 **Compost Site Visit**
11:00 Leave Compost Site
11:30 **Troubleshooting Compost Production Exercise**
11:45 **Group Review of Compost Site Visit & Troubleshooting**
12:00 Lunch
1:30 **Life in the Soil Video**
2:15 **Live Comparisons Under the Microscope**
3:45 **Overview of Soil Microbiology**
4:45 **Humus Based Soil Fertility**
5:45 **Group Review of Afternoon Learning**
6:00 Supper
7:45 **Knowledge Exchange with Experienced Compost Producers**
8:30 **Adjourn**

Day 3

7:30 Rolls & Coffee
7:45 **Parameters for Measuring Compost Quality & Value**
9:00 **Group Review of Compost Quality & List Outstanding Questions**
9:15 **Answer Open Questions and Information Needed to Achieve Individual Goals**
10:00 Break
10:15 **Answer Open Questions (Continued)**
11:00 **Strategies for Marketing and Selling Compost**
12:00 Lunch
1:00 **How to Get Started**
— Establishing Goals
— Site Design & Capacity Planning
— Raw Materials
— Machinery & Equipment Needed
2:00 **Sharing Real Life Experiences**
— Solving Crop Problems
— Manure Management Case Study
— Compost Selling Role Play
3:45 Review & Summary
4:00 **Adjourn**

Midwest Bio-Systems Composting Perspective

28933 35 E. Street • Tampico, IL 61283 • Phone (815) 438-7200 • MBS@MidwestBioSystems.com

www.MidwestBioSystems.com