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Compost Production Procedures

Compost is produced on our farm in Clarence, NY, indoors using the alternative compost method. Fresh 100% manure (no additives) is removed from the henhouses on a periodic basis every 3 to 5 days. The manure is piled in a windrow in the first 20 feet of each compost bunker. Windrows are turned approximately every 3 days with each turn moving the compost 20 feet down the length of the building. The first 100 feet of windrow are aerated by using fans to blow air through a perforated pipe located in a trench in the floor. It takes about 15 turns over a period of approximately 45 days to reach the back of the building. Temperatures in the windrows reach a minimum of 135 degrees F for at least three turns (9 days) and stay above 131 degrees F for at least 15 days which is 5 turns of the material. Final moisture levels are in the 20 - 30 % range. The only ingredient is poultry manure from laying hens and replacement pullets. The compost machine is scraped downafter it finishes turning each row. In addition, the machine performs two cleanouts before reaching the back of the bunker. Each cleanout purges the compost turner with heated (131 F minimum) compost.

Pelleted Fertilizer Production

Composted poultry manure (see above) is used to make pelleted fertilizer at our facility in Akron, NY. The compost is run through a pellet mill, dried at a temperature of 155 F to below 12% moisture, crumbled and screened for size. Crumbles can be bagged, placed in bulk sacks (-2,000 lbs each) or sold as bulk product.

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