Services

Educational Workshops

Hosting a workshop in your area is a great way to learn more about manure management. Workshops have been held province-wide.

Workshop topics include:

- Composting basics
- How to build a compost system
- Pasture management

If you would like to host a workshop contact us for pricing and availability. Please note that funding is often available from HCBC to host workshops in areas throughout the province. Go to www.hcbc.ca under Affiliates/Clubs/Zones.

Technical Assistance

LEPS is available to conduct site consultations on farms located within the FVRD and Metro Vancouver. Consultations outside of these areas can be arranged if there are a minimum number of interested parties. Site consultations include:

- Assessment of your current manure management system
- Siting of a potential composting system
- Pasture assessment
- A report on our findings along with suggestions on how to save money, reduce waste and improve your pastures

Resources

Find more information on composting, pictures of what others have done, a blog where you can post your questions, and many great free, downloadable resources on our website.

LEPS

Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "protect and restore the natural environment through education, cooperation and action."

Langley Environmental Partners Society
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For further information please contact us today!

Project Partner:

Horse Council British Columbia

Generous support provided by:

BCAC BC Agriculture Council

Funding provided by:

Canada

Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia

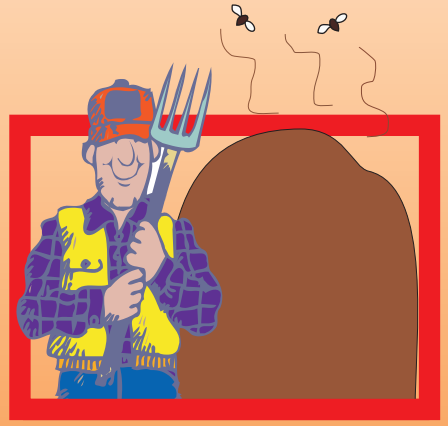
British Columbia

LEPS

Horse Manure Composting Program

Helping horse owners improve manure management.

Have you had it up to here?



Turn your "problem" into "black gold"

Let us show you how to create your own composting system, save thousands, improve your pastures, make your property look better and ensure the health of your local community.

The Manure "Problem"

Manure management is a major concern for horse farms of all sizes. Horse manure can have detrimental impacts on our local environment. It has also become much more challenging to find facilities that accept manure and expenditures around manure management have substantially grown. The all-too-familiar mountain of manure seen on many properties is becoming less acceptable due to greater public awareness and pressures by surrounding urban development.

Potential Negative Impacts

- Unsafe drinking water from ground water pollution
- Surface water pollution can spread disease among livestock
- Death of fish and other aquatic organisms
- Increased populations of unwanted insects
- Difficulties with neighbours due to smell and unsightliness of stored manure

Juvenile coho killed by manure leachate into creek.

Dealing with the Dirty Secret

Many industry members recognize the problems that manure mismanagement can cause. However, many have treated it as the "dirty little secret" of the equine industry, and have done little about it. Meanwhile, heaps of manure accumulate over time, making it seem more and more impossible to deal with. Now is the time to act and the solution is simple.

Composting - a simple solution

Composting your horses' "waste" is an excellent way to deal with the "problem" of manure. Horse manure and shavings can be easily composted using methods tailored to the needs of your individual farm. It is surprising just how easy it is to do! One landowner who installed a composting system stated, "It isn't rocket science after all." In as few as three weeks, your mountain of manure can be turned into compost, which is a usable and desirable natural soil enhancer.

An example of a simple three bay composting system built to accommodate 2 horses on a 3 acre property.

Benefits of Composting

Saving Thousands

Manure bin rentals and haul-away fees can cost thousands of dollars each year. These annual costs can be significantly reduced or even eliminated by a one-time investment in your property.

Helping the Environment

Improperly stored horse manure can cause damage to the local environment, polluting groundwater and local streams. Some salmon bearing streams no longer support fish populations due to such pollution. Compost systems are built to ensure proper storage so that the health of the local community and environment is maintained.

Improving Pastures

Mulching your fields with properly composted horse manure can drastically improve pasture health by providing an on-demand, slow-release natural fertilizer, improving pasture drainage and improving soil structure.

Your horses are what they eat. Poor pasture condition can lead to an array of health problems including laminitis and colic. Pastures can be greatly improved with the addition of compost.