

To: Philomath Compost Project

From: Teresa Matteson

RE: Meeting with Students 7Mar2006

Compost facility operator: Shepard Smith – Shepard has been engineering organic recycling for 30 years. The windrow turner technology has improved his management practices in the past 3 years.

Business: Soilsmith Services phone: 541-231-3225 email: info@soilsmith.com

Current status of compost: Two working piles
These piles will remain separate from each other.

Feedstocks:

Leaves from Corvallis streets

Beef barn waste including fir chips, feed (hay, oats, corn), urine and manure

Chicken manure – slightly aged, good working moisture level upon delivery

Piles are covered with a light-weight cloth and weighted with tires – use care when handling the pile covers

Initial dimensions of piles – 5 feet high and roughly 160 feet in length

Shepard's sampling protocol – 8 samples total

4 samples per side (4 on west, 4 on east – 25 – 30 ft from ends of piles)

Shepard notes that there is very little leachate – due to construction, piles are tall not wide to shed water and cover

Shepard would like adult supervision when students are present

He requests that Jeff Mitchell call John Steward to inform him that students will be on property.

Notes for students collecting samples:

May need to carefully work around/under windrow covers

With a shovel or trowel, dig a hole in the compost. Place the removed feedstocks on the top of the pile.

Repair the pile when finished.

Keep the pile structure intact. Clean is important.

Caution – when digging in pile USE A TOOL – not hands

Leaves from streets may contain sharp objects (glass, metal, needles)

Put all garbage into the receptacle in the barn.

Safety suggestions

1. Make an Emergency call list that includes the following numbers

Philomath High School

911

Teachers

Students' Parents

Shepard – 541 231-3225

2. Have students and their parents sign an agreement (written by students) stating that they understand:

- that students are working on this project
- that students are traveling to this sight
- that hazardous conditions (unforeseen sharp objects, and pathogens associated with manure and organic waste) may be present
- that students will maintain the standards by which Shepard works
- this site is private property and student conduct must reflect awareness and respect for Shepard's business and the property owners' interest.

Information we need from Shepard

Start date of piles

Date and temperature from his records

Turn schedule

Turn is scheduled for 7Mar06

Turn dates prior to 7Mar

Schedule a turn date when students can observe?

Schedule turnings and sample collection on different dates

Set up the next meeting date for Teresa and students to visit site and collect first samples.