



Organic Waste Recycling Pilot Project

WasteCap Nebraska with the Partners in Pollution Prevention (P3) program of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL) began one year ago with initial research into recycling food waste. The program was designed to facilitate the creation of a recycling program through B&R Stores, Inc. focused primarily on the potential to recycle organic food waste. Today, with this basic initial data, the first steps in creating a pilot program with B&R Stores, Inc. are in progress. The pilot program would allow B&R Stores, Inc., potential haulers, and potential farmers and composting facilities to test the feasibility of creating a market for recycled organics in Lincoln, Nebraska and therefore to reduce a critical amount of waste hauled to the landfill.



Project goal

The goal is to help recover a valuable resource by connecting food waste generators, haulers who can transport the material and markets who can compost, vermicompost or/and feed animals with the collected material.

Non - meat food scrap case study

In July of 2007, employees from Russ's Market located at 6300 Havelock Ave. began collecting all non-meat food scrap during the day and place it in boxes in the storage area. A local farmer, Bruce Nelson, picks up the food scrap each day around 3:00 pm. The scrap is successfully fed to 30 sheep, 3 horses, 3 bulls, and 10 ducks. The total weight of scrap products per day is recorded and fed to the animals along with a nutritional supplement of soybean. After this very positive initial approach, a symbiosis is taking place; the grocery store is saving money due to reduction in garbage bills and a farmer has lower cost food than traditional feed.



Statistics

WasteCap Nebraska was periodically monitoring the amount and nutrient content of the food scrap during the pilot program. After two months, a total of **9,240 pounds** were collected from the grocery store with the animals eating the food as a normal part of their diet without finding any difference from the traditional feed.



Comparing actual results with the P3 data, the results are double the estimation:

B&R Stores INC.	6300 Havelock	2662 Cornhusker Hwy.
P3 waste assessment (2006)	560 lb/week	2,150 lb/week
WasteCap pilot project (2007)	1,078 lb/week	4,000 lb/week*

*This store will start collecting food scrap September 20, 2007. We are estimating this amount based on the Havelock example.



Following step

The same farmer will collect food scrap from Super Saver at 2662 Cornhusker Hwy to fully complete the amount of feed he needs without purchasing traditional feed. Other farmers have been located and are willing to participate as well as a biocompost facility.

WasteCap Contact info

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