# New Jersey ManureLink

*Where to Find What Feeds Your Field*

***https://njmanurelink.rutgers.edu***

2022 NRCS-NJ Conservation Innovation Grant
#NR222B29XXXXG002

Sandra Howland
https://www.nj.gov/agriculture

# NJ ManureLink – Background & Need

- New Jersey's has many small-acreage farms
- Small farm have limited capacity to use manure on-farm, especially horse farms. The equine industry is unique - typically no associated cropland & manure is considered waste.
- Addresses need for manure transport, moving nutrients from areas of excess to nutrient-deficient crop fields, composters, and urban farms.
- Connects farms with a cost-effective soil amendment and connect farmers to compost as growing media for our urban farms.
- At a statewide scale, address agricultural organic waste materials, as well as increased education and adoption of composting practices as noted in **the NJDEP's Global Warming Response Act 80 x 50 Report (Oct. 2020)**





New Jersey Department of Agriculture
*Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources*

# NJ ManureLink – Partners










**NJDA has partnered with**

**Rutgers University, Office of Research Analytics – website development**

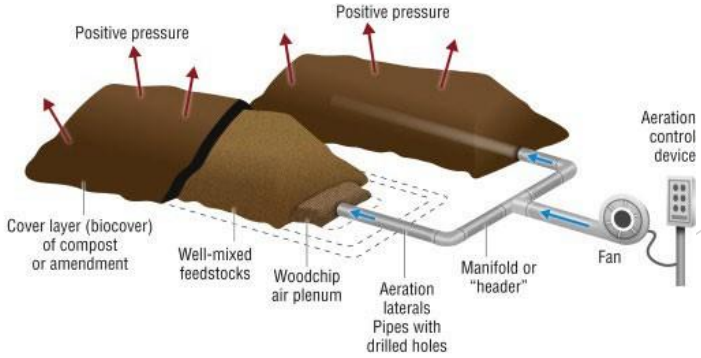
**New Jersey Compost Council (NJCC) - education and outreach**

# NJ ManureLink Project Overview

2022 NRCS-NJ Conservation Innovation Grant #NR222B29XXXXG002

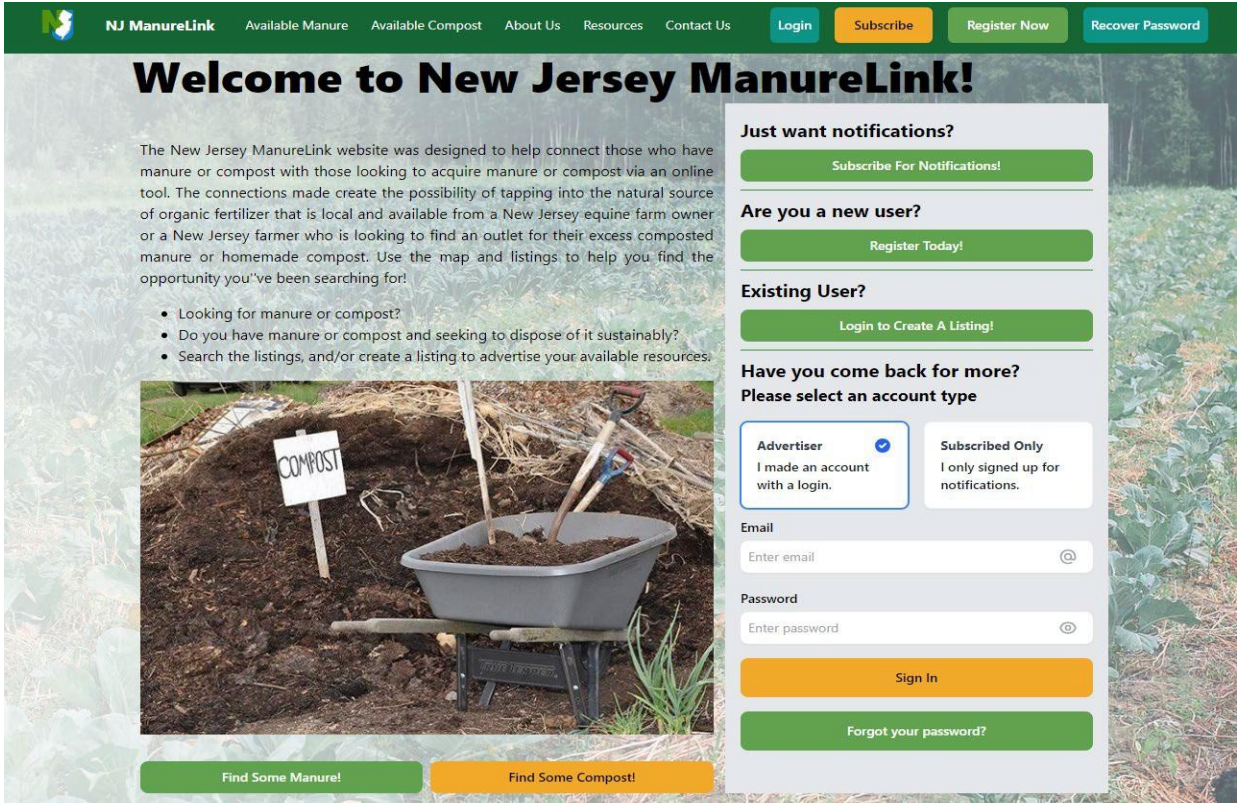
1. Develop website to connect producers with manure and compost
   - njmanurelink.rutgers.edu
2. Host educational events: 2024 & 2025 Webinars and Field Days
3. Adapt practices and educational materials for New Jersey farms;
4. Assist producers with implementing composting and nutrient management practices through development of technical assistance






New Jersey Department of Agriculture
*Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources*

# https://njmanurelink.rutgers.edu/

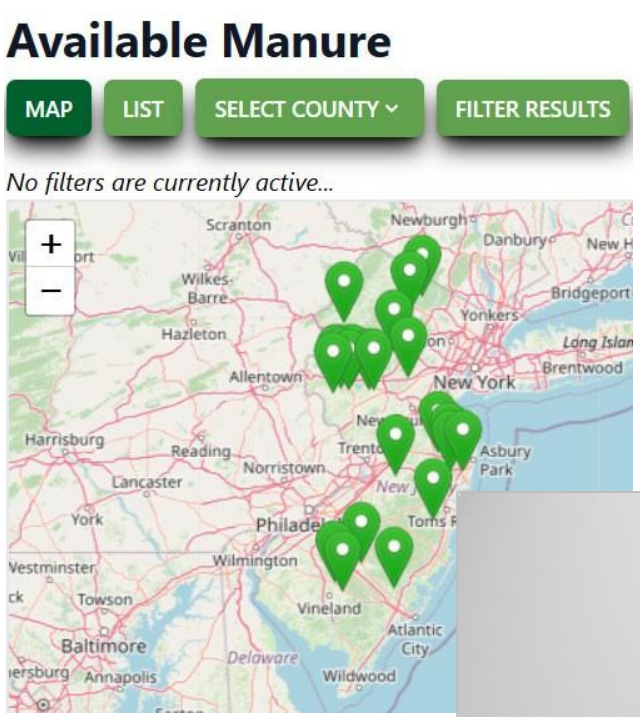


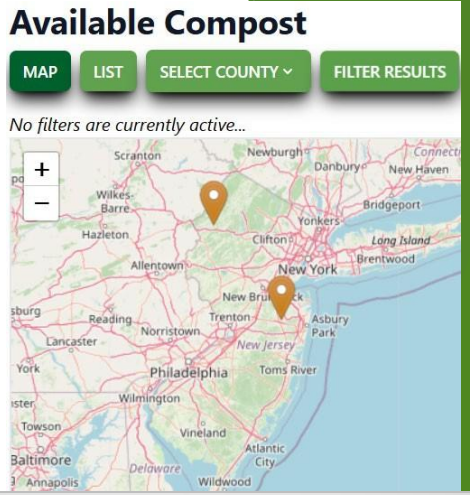

Website Demo

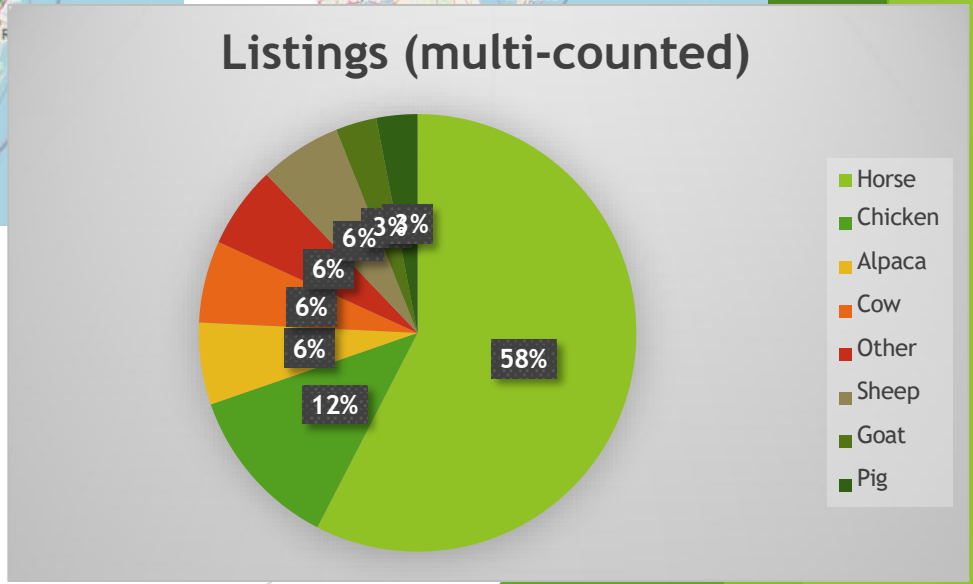
# Status update Oct. 2025

- Users: 189
- Listings: 25
  - 24 Manure
  - 2 Compost

…and growing every day



# Educational Partners

- Project Lead
- Education and Outreach
- Website Development
- Field Day Hosts

**Whitetail Farm**
290 Goat Hill Road
Lambertville NJ

- Technical Service Providers

**Greenway Environmental Consultants, LLC**
**Michael Farbotnik**

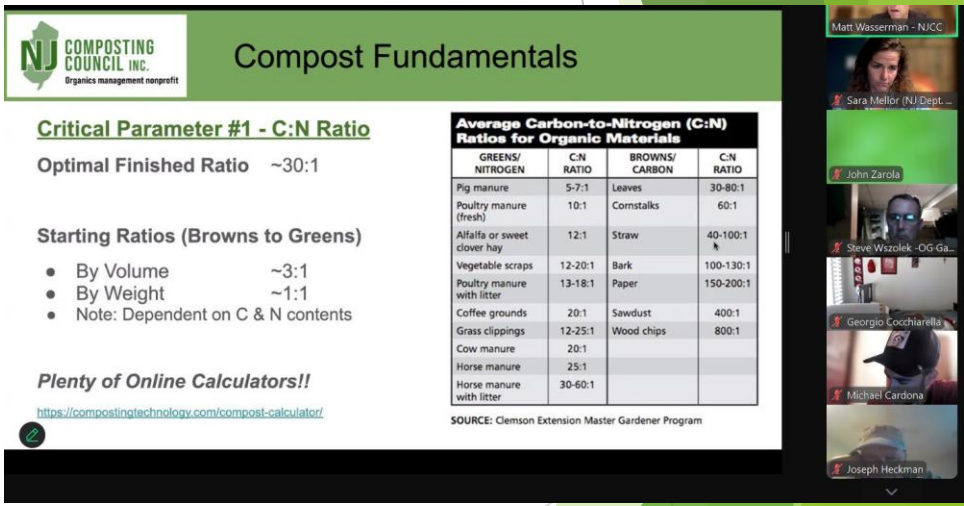
- Funding provided through NJ Conservation Innovation Grant

# Webinars

- Overview of NJManureLink Website
- NJ Animal Waste Management Regulations
- Composting
  - 1. Compost Fundamentals
  - 2. Why Compost Manure?
  - 3. Methods and Process of Composting
  - 4. Technology
  - 5. Compost Utilization/Spreading
  - 6. Compost Economics, Markets, and Testing
- Nutrient Management
- Resources and Assistance Opportunities

- **Webinar 1 July 10, 2024:** 25 participants; recording available.

- **Webinar 2 May 13, 2025:** 22 participants.



# Field Day 2024







## NJ ManureLink 2024 Composting Field Day



**Composting Webinar** - RECORDED AND AVAILABLE ON NJMANURELINK.RUTGERS.EDU
Webinar covering composting basics, manure handling and stockpiling, nutrient management, and introduction to local technical and financial resources.

**Composting Field Day - Wednesday, August 14th, 5-8 p.m.**
**1106 NJ-12 Kingwood, New Jersey** **RESCHEDULED DUE TO WEATHER**
David DeFrange's Copper Creek Landscape Management and Nursery

Field day will focus on composting horse manure with pine shavings bedding and include demonstrations of composting techniques, hands-on demonstration stations, and discussion of how to incorporate compost into pasture, crop, and nursery operations.

New Jersey Department of Agriculture, New Jersey Composting Council, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and other local resource providers will be assisting with demonstration stations and available to answer your questions.

**Field Day Demonstration Stations include:**

- Sighting a storage or stockpiling location
- C-N Ratio / recipe
- Moisture content
- Temperature & Oxygen
- Bulk Density and physical parameters
- Time / Curing/ When is it done?



**Collaborating Organizations**

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

R

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

NJ Composting Council Inc.
Organics management nonprofit

Funding for NJ ManureLink is made possible through the USDA-NRCS, Conservation Innovation Grant # NR222B29XXXXG002

# Field Day 2025



Field Day Demonstrations include:

1. How to choose a storage or stockpiling location
2. Compost recipes and characteristics
3. Time / Curing/ When is it done and ready to spread
4. Nutrient Management and using compost in pastures
5. Manure Spreader Calibration Demonstration



NM CECs offered for PA and MD

- **Field Day 2024** 23 attendees.
- **Field Day 2025** 22 attendees

**Total engaged across events:**
92 participants.



# Opportunities through the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources Programs

- **Animal Waste Management Plan Development and BMP Implementation Grants**
  - From NJDA to Soil Conservation Districts.
  - Producer opportunities throughout the State
  - cost-share funding for implementation of best management practices
  - Funding can be stand-alone or paired with USDA-NRCS or other sources
  - Sandra.howland@ag.nj.gov or 609-815-6159 (me ☺ )

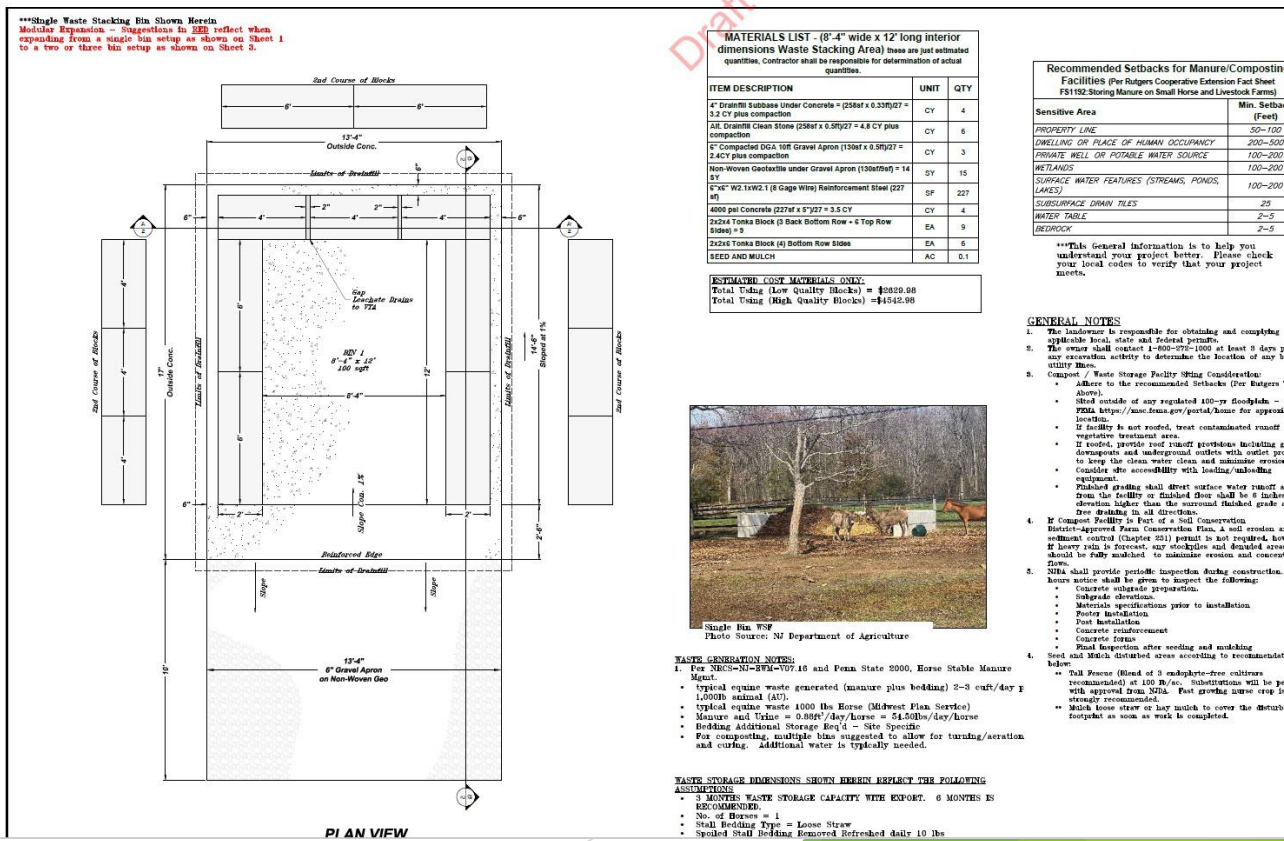
North NJ – Upper Delaware Soil Conservation District
Sandra Myers @ 908-852-2579; SMYERS@UPPERDELAWARESCD-NJ.COM

South NJ – Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District
Riley Blankenship @ 609-625-3144; farminspections@capeatlantic.org



# Adapting practices to NJ Farms

- Development of technical assistance guidance documents for manure and composing storage structures on NJ livestock farms
- Need for simple manure storage structures
- Small farms – smaller budgets
- DIY & simple



# A success story!




Charlie West, owner and operator of West Farm Nursery, located in Branchburg, Somerset County, NJ shared he made a couple connections through using NJ ManureLink. West Farm Nursery specializes in the production of seed, and grafted cultivated varieties of PawPaw's, American Persimmon's, and Figs. Additionally, the nursery grows a variety of other plants, including Kentucky Coffee Tree, Comfrey, Osage Orange, and Hazelnuts.

Mr. West said *"I discovered NJ ManureLink through Joe Heckman (Rutgers Extension Specialist in Soil Fertility), and I think it's an excellent resource. The platform is incredibly user-friendly and easy to navigate. The mapping feature was especially helpful for identifying manure suppliers in my area.* ***I was able to connect with two local manure posting ads.*** *Unfortunately, I believe not enough people are aware of this valuable service, which has made securing a consistent manure source more challenging."*

# Addressing Nutrient Transport

- **Nutrient Management Assistance Grant**
  - Purchase of Manure Spreader
  - Establishment of community use program (share, lend, rent)
  - Requires and may fund Nutrient Budget or NMPs
  - For individuals and entities



# Project Outcomes and Benefits

**What We've Accomplished Through the NJ ManureLink CIG:**

✅ **Expanded knowledge and use of manure export, composting, and compost application**
Through on-farm demonstrations and community outreach, we've helped farmers put BMPs into practice.

✅ **Multiple sectors benefited:**

- **Livestock and equine operations** found new outlets for excess manure
- **Composters and crop producers** gained reliable sources of feedstock
- **Urban and rural farms** connected through shared goals and materials

✅ **Built a strong statewide network**
We've fostered relationships across agricultural sectors — creating lasting partnerships and new opportunities.

✅ **Created a long-term resource**
This project now serves as a free, go-to hub for education, tools, and farmer-to-farmer support.











New Jersey Department of Agriculture
***Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources***


Sandra Howland

Sandra.Howland@ag.nj.gov

609-815-6159





