

TIPS AND TOOLS

- Use natural buffers such as plants and grasses around manure piles and property edges.
- Keep your manure pile covered, and periodically turn it to help break it down.
- Investigate commercial haulers to have manure stored in containers that can be removed.
- Do NOT store manure near wells, streams or ponds. Prevent horses from standing in stream beds.
- Use sacrifice areas for turn out during wet times and when grass is grazed to 3 inches to prevent damage to your pasture.
- Avoid spreading manure when the ground is frozen.
- Prevent water from taking a path through your barnyard by use of swales and gutters that drain to dry wells.
- Divide pastures and use rotational grazing where possible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This brochure is intended as a guideline only. The following groups & agencies may also be contacted for more information on manure management:

The University of Connecticut Equine Extension Specialist
www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/extension/index.html (860) 486-4471

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
www.dep.state.ct.us (860) 424-3000

The Horse Environmental Awareness Program (HEAP)
www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rc&d/km_heap-program.html. (203)-224-3663

CT Conservation Districts
www.conservect.org

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov (860) 871-4011

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
www.caes.state.ct.us (877) 855-2237

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
www.ct.gov/doag (860)-713-2500

***Membership dues made this brochure possible. Please consider joining CHC so that we may continue to serve the industry.*

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The Real Scoop About Manure

THE CONNECTICUT
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MANURE MANAGEMENT & HORSES

Connecticut has a large and viable horse industry which includes many breeds and disciplines. Because of the high density of horses in this state, coupled with shrinking open space, horse owners need to be aware of their farm designs and proper manure management.

Conscientious farm and stable owners who address manure issues will make their properties more aesthetically pleasing. This will increase the land's value, reduce the environmental impact, and lessen the potential for conflict with neighbors and government agencies.

Issues:

Two issues in particular should be of concern: improperly managed manure piles which result in runoff, and problems caused by erosion of paddocks, rings, trails, and overgrazed pastures which deposit sediment into wetlands and watercourses.

Watercourses are defined as all rivers, streams, brooks, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps and bogs.

Wetlands are defined by soil type and the Soil Conservation Service can designate them as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial, and flood plain.

LAWS & REGULATIONS

According to Connecticut laws and regulations;

The **Public Health Code** can require that manure be kept covered, or stored in containers, or removed weekly during summer months. The local health officer is responsible for enforcing any violations of health codes relative to manure management. Improper manure storage or handling may be deemed a public nuisance, over which the health officer has jurisdiction.

Watershed Sanitation Regulations

specifically prohibit stables and manure piles within 100 feet of the high water mark of a reservoir, or within 50 feet of the high water mark of any water supply-including surface and groundwater sources, unless acceptable controls are in place. Pollution by sediment runoff of the above waterways is also prohibited.

Wetland laws require permits for any excavation, deposition, obstruction, construction, alteration, and pollution of wetlands.

Town Zoning Ordinances may also govern how manure is stored, and its location on your property. Checking with your town hall to obtain the most current zoning regulations is crucial.

FOR CONSIDERATION

The average 1,000 pound horse produces approximately 50 lbs. of manure a day. That is 9 tons of manure a year! When soiled bedding is added it creates another 750 cubic feet per year, per horse.

According to the 2005 survey completed by the American Horse Council, there are 9.2 million horses in the United States. There are horses in every state and forty-five have at least 20,000 horses each. The most recent University of Connecticut survey reports there are 45,000 to 60,000 horses in the state of Connecticut.

Common types of bedding used for horses include straw, pine shavings, sawdust, peanut hulls, rice hulls, and wood pellets. Shredded newspaper or peat mosses are also occasionally used.

Straw and shredded newspapers tend to compost more quickly than sawdust or shavings. Wood pellets can significantly reduce the volume of waste. The less bedding in the compost pile, the more quickly it will break down.

The optimum temperature for killing of weed seeds and parasites in a compost pile is 140 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit.

*Note** due to high temperatures generated by composting, manure piles can spontaneously combust if they are too dry.

Always monitor your piles.