



Fifty flail knives shred and turn the manure windrow, stepping up bacterial action that reduces waste to humus in 10 to 12 days. Humus is less bulky and said to have more available nutrients than raw manure.

ELIMINATES ODOR PROBLEMS

New Composter Turns Manure Into Money

New methods for handling manure are busting out all over. One of the most promising alternatives is composting, an ancient process for decomposing manure fast to be spread as rich, odorless organic matter.

Latest new development in composting is a compost turner manufactured by Mehlhaf Mfg., a South Dakota firm headquartered at Freeman. Looking like a hybrid between a roto-tiller and a giant egg beater, the implement shreds and turns manure, and other organic waste, as it's pulled by a tractor over a composting windrow.

By letting oxygen into the waste material, bacterial activity is stepped up reducing the waste to humus. "Manure becomes a stable product

after 10-12 days. It's reduced to half its volume and has no manure smell," explains Charles Mehlhaf, president of Mehlhaf. "During decomposition, the pile heats to temperatures that kill weed seeds and any harmful bacteria."

The composter requires a 94 hp or larger tractor. It weighs 2500 lbs. and will straddle a row 12ft. wide and 4 ft. high, turning it at a rate of 400-500 tons per hour.

Transport wheels and a tractor-towing hitch are optional equipment for road travel.

Composting starts by turning windrowed manure the first day. It works best when moisture is at 50%. Higher moisture manure can be dried down by turning it every day, or by adding

sawdust or straw. Nozzles on the unit can spray water, dampening too-dry manure.

The windrow is turned every 2-3 days until the manure is reduced to a stable product, at 10-12 days. Then, the loose, mellow material can be spread on fields with a conventional manure spreader.

Mehlhaf claims that composted manure contains more valuable nutrients, that the minerals are more available to plants, and that it increases the soil water-holding capacity.

The machine, which is called the Easy Over Compost Turner, is made in two sizes — a farm model, which has a price tag of \$6,000 and a commercial model that sells for \$9,350.

The 50 flail-type knives which churn the manure have to be replaced every 1-2 years and sell for \$500 a set.

The commercial heavy-duty model is designed for industries or municipalities who have a waste disposal problem. One of these is in use at the Omaha stockyards, and another is used by the city of Yankton, S. Dak., at its landfill.

As of last spring, the Mehlhaf company has built 20 composters and had about 20 more on order. Farmers are using them in Iowa, Colorado, Nebraska, California and South Dakota.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mehlhaf Machine and Mfg. Co., Highway 81, P. O. Box 523, Freeman, S. Dak. 57029 (ph. 605 925-4512).

SELF-LEVELING ON ANY TERRAIN

Portable Scaffold Sets Up In Minutes

Say goodbye to ladders, ropes, and home-built scaffolds and platforms for painting and carpenter jobs high off the ground. They're no longer needed if you use a mobile all-terrain scaffold.

"This portable scaffold was designed for industrial and construction use, but more and more farmers are finding it useful for painting and doing repairs on barns, silos, or sheds, says a spokesman for the manufacturer, Rustgo Company, of Spencer, Neb.

The structure is all steel except for the 20 ft. plywood work platform. Platform height is adjustable from 4 ft. to 16½ ft. in 4 ft. intervals. The platform, which is raised and low-

ered with a hand-wound winch, locks in place at each level. It's rated to support 800 lbs. of weight. The wheels have positive-lock parking brakes.

For moving, the scaffold is towed on its own wheels. The 13-ft. model only requires lowering of the platform for towing. The 16½ ft. model must have the platform and uprights removed before towing. Two men can do this in minutes just by removal of several pins. Assembly for working position takes only a few minutes.

For information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rustgo Co., Route 2, Spencer, Neb. 68777 (ph. 402 589-1247).



Platform on Rustgo's portable scaffold is leveled at either end with a hand-cranked winch. Folds down for transport in minutes.