



Clallam Conservation District MANURE SHARE PROGRAM

The Manure Share Program connects people who have extra horse and livestock manure with people who want manure to amend their soil. Local livestock owners with excess manure have asked to have their names added to the “Supplier List.” All you need to do is contact them and make arrangements to pick up the manure.

Clallam Conservation District does not guarantee the quality of the manure provided under this program, or guarantee any particular result for its use. Under no circumstances shall Clallam Conservation District be responsible for any loss or damage caused by or resulting from the exchange of manure under this program.

Detailed information on our Manure Share Program, including risks and composting resources, can be found at our website: <https://clallamcd.org/manure-share>. Below is a summary of risks associated with using manure and compost:

- Weeds - Invasive weed seeds can be a common contaminant in manure and compost. The number of weed seeds present in manure and compost depends greatly upon the livestock type, feed source, bedding material, and compost time.
- Persistent Herbicides - There are risks to using horse and livestock manure and bedding (mostly straw) because some herbicides persist through the composting cycle. Those herbicides may affect plants if they are in your manure/compost.
- Disease - Manure may carry animal diseases and viruses.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU COMPOST MANURE BEFORE USING IT!

Composting Frequently Asked Questions:

Where should I put my compost pile?

- Pick a high, dry location away from wells and/or surface water (streams, ditches, ponds). Manure/compost piles should be at least 100 feet away from wells and waterways, farther if the land slopes toward them.
- Take into consideration neighbors and prevailing winds – ideally the pile will be located away from your home and neighbors.

How do I make compost?

- Compost ingredients include carbon, nitrogen, moisture and oxygen.
- A 25 to 1 carbon to nitrogen (C:N) ratio is ideal for composting. Nitrogen sources include green material such as manure and lawn clippings. Carbon sources are dry material like straw and leaves. Horse manure contains nearly the correct C:N ratio but needs a little carbon added in.
- Composting with “hot” manures (high in nitrogen) requires the addition of more carbon.
- A minimum pile size of 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet is needed to generate heat and good compost.
- Mix or turn the pile regularly to incorporate oxygen and compost the material on the outside of the pile.
- The pile should be kept moist, about as damp as a wrung out sponge.
- A two-bin system allows for two stages of composting: active and finished. Three bins gives even more flexibility.
- ALWAYS KEEP YOUR PILE COVERED WITH A TARP. This helps retain moisture and nutrients, minimizes polluted runoff, and speeds up the composting process.

When is my compost ready?

- Compost is “finished” when original material is no longer recognizable and it looks evenly textured and crumbly like soil.
- Proper composting generates temperatures of 120-160° F., killing most weed seeds and parasites. *However, many composting systems do not reach such temperatures or do so inconsistently, allowing weed seeds to persist.*

Visit our website at: <http://clallamcd.org>, email us at info@clallamcd.org or call us at (360) 775-3747 ext. 5 for more information on this and other Clallam Conservation District programs and services.