Economic Considerations for Composting Dairy Barns

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Overview

- Structure
- Bedding
- Equipment
- Labor
Structure

- Likely be most significant cost
- Modifications to current structure may be possible
- EQIP funding for up to half the total cost may be available
- Study farms ranged from $15-20/sq. ft.
  - $1200-$1600
Structure

• Variations
  size
  concrete
  ventilation
  feed alleys
Barn layout

Dominant wind direction

46 ft

14 ft

46 ft

140 ft
Barn layout
Barn layout

Dominant wind direction

Bedding Zone

15 ft 15 ft 50 ft
Barn layout
Bedding

- Study primarily used sawdust
- Price and availability can be extreme
- Back-up source
Equipment

- Tractor
- Mixing tool
- Loader tractor/skid steer
- Feed distribution
Labor

• 16-22 hours/month
  – Stirring twice daily
  – Scraping any alleyways
  – Adding sawdust as needed
  – $12/hr = $192-$264
Labor

- Sawdust (1hr) added 1/week to 1/month
- Access to pasture
- Compare to current system
Uky Tool

- http://www2.ca.uky.edu/afsdairy/DairyHousingInvestment

New Dairy Housing Investment Analysis Dashboard

(adobe Flash Player required). Please be patient. May take a couple minutes to load.