Over the year we will demonstrate the on-farm use of a commercially available cardboard chipping machine to convert boxes into chips to be used as farm inputs such as composter feed stock, weed barrier mulch, and animal bedding. The goal of this project is to help make our farm and other commercial farms, more economically viable, while also addressing a solid waste disposal issue.

Testing wood shavings and cardboard

Coonamessett Farm

NORTHEAST SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

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NORTHEAST SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

Coonamessett Farm

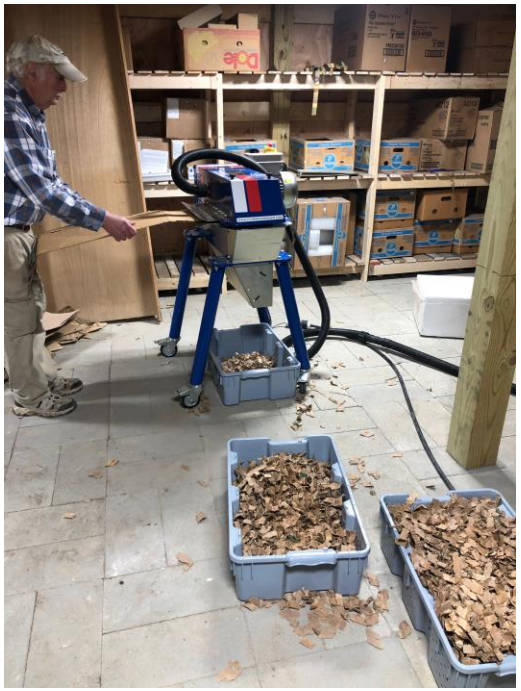
Researching the value of cardboard chips as a farm input

In 2021 Coonamessett Farm was awarded a grant through SARE to research the use of cardboard chips to replace animal bedding and mulches

Allison Maikath, agricultural researcher, spreading mulch on snap pea field crop rows

There are lots of questions that have to be investigated to demonstrate that using cardboard chips is beneficial to the environment and to crop production. We will experiment in multiple areas at the farm.

- Cardboard mulch will be tested in all of our barn sites as animal bedding and in our chicken coop as laying box material
- It will be used as a feedstock in our eco drum rotational composter
- Multiple field and greenhouse sites will be treated with cardboard mulch in comparison to our woodchips
- Material handling was documented for economic viability



Ron Smolowitz, owner of Coonamessett farm, processing used cardboard into mulch

Our results will be available in 2023 on the SARE website

Project number FNE21-994

https://projects.sare.org/search-projects/