

### **Consent to Participate in a Research Study**

**Title of the Project:** Biochar from Biosolids and Source Separated Human Urine: Soil Health Impacts and Farmer Perspectives

**Principal Investigator:** Deborah Aller, Extension Associate, Cornell University

**Co-Investigator:** Abe Noe-Hays, Research Director, Rich Earth Institute

**Co-Investigator:** Tatiana Schreiber, Social Research Director, Rich Earth Institute

### **Invitation to Participate in a Research Study**

We invite you to be part of a research study about the use of novel soil fertilizers and amendments derived from human waste. This research project focuses on developing and evaluating technologies to produce amendments using human urine, biochar made from biomass, and/or biochar made from biosolids. One component of the study seeks to understand the perspectives and concerns of potential users of these amendments. The study is funded by United States Dept. of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (USDA SARE). Compensation of \$60.00 will be provided.

### **Description of Your Involvement**

If you agree to be part of the research study, we will ask you to participate in a group conversation that will take approximately 90 minutes. Your participation will help provide valuable insight based on your own area of expertise, which will inform our ongoing research. Participation in this conversation does not obligate you to also complete any future work related to this research.

### **Benefits of Participation**

You may directly benefit from being in this study because you will become informed about possibilities associated with recycling human waste into fertilizer, and will be contributing to important research concerning both benefits and risks of this process.

### **Risks and Discomforts of Participation**

There may be some discomfort from your participation in this research because some questions ask about personal habits with regard to human waste. Some questions also relate to the use of these novel amendments derived from human waste on your farm. All responses will be kept confidential, unless we ask and receive your consent to be identified.

### **Confidentiality**

We plan to publish the results of this study. We will not include any information that would identify you without your consent. Your privacy will be protected and your research records will be confidential. It is possible that other people may need to see the information you give us as part of the study, such as organizations responsible for making sure the research is done safely and properly like government offices or the study sponsor, the SARE program. If we publish any papers or articles based on this study we will contact you to determine if you would prefer to remain anonymous or whether you consent to be identified.

### **Storage and Future Use of Data**

Upon completion of the conversation, your name and any other identifying information will be secured and stored separately from your interview responses. Only members of our research team will have access to notes and transcripts from these conversations, and will keep all information private. Recordings and transcriptions will be stored internally, using numbers for identification, and only the team will have access to a list associating these numbers with participants, and this will not be shared.

### **Voluntary Nature of the Study**

Participating in this study is completely voluntary. Even if you decide to participate now, you may change your mind and stop at any time. If you decide to withdraw before the interview is completed, all responses will be deleted and not used for the study.

### **Contact Information for the Study Team**

If you have questions about this research, including questions about scheduling or your participation, you may contact Co-investigator at [tatiana@richearthinstitute.org](mailto:tatiana@richearthinstitute.org) or Principal Investigator Deborah Aller at Cornell University, School of Integrative Plant Sciences [da352@cornell.edu](mailto:da352@cornell.edu)

### **Contact Information for Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant**

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or wish to obtain information, ask questions or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact the Cornell University, Institutional Review Board, Human Participants at 607-255-5138 or access their website at <http://www.irb.cornell.edu>. You may also report your concerns or complaints anonymously through Ethicspoint online at [www.hotline.cornell.edu](http://www.hotline.cornell.edu) or by calling toll free at 1-866-293-3077. Ethicspoint is an independent organization that serves as a liaison between the University and the person bringing the complaint so that anonymity can be ensured.

### **Consent**

By signing this document, you are agreeing to be in the study. We will give you a copy of this document for your records. We will keep one copy with the study records. Be sure that we have answered any questions you have about the study and that you understand what you are being asked to do. You may contact the researcher if you think of a question later.

*I agree to participate in the study.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Address information for mailing stipend: