

Cal Poly—CAFES Center for Sustainability
Professional Development Compost Training
Course Evaluation
April 23 – 27, 2011

[21 Evaluations Returned at end of course]

Please rate the following 5 questions from 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent); *please circle number*

1. Overall, how did the classroom sessions meet your expectations?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 1 3 4 12

2. Overall, how did the outdoor exercises meet your expectations?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 4 4 12

3. Did the guest presenters enhance your overall workshop experience?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
4 6 11

4. Was the field trip worthwhile and did it enhance the training?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 1 3 3 13

5. Overall, how did the workshop meet your expectations?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 7 13

What topic(s) did we neglect or spend too little time on?

- It was well balanced
- Regulatory compliance and practical “do’s and don’ts” vis a vis compliance
- Well-rounded; specialized topics like food safety would have been good for me
- Soil biology and lab test water presentation
- More information on microbiology, it was a bit of time crunch on formulas
- Actual start-up costs for new compos
- In vessel composting and waste collection
- Given the diverse audience (small, medium, large, backyard and vermicompost) I think the course did a great job.
- Uses of compost to crops
- Composting on a large scale; science and nutrients

What topic(s) did we include too time much on?

- Marketing
- Pace could have been a bit quicker on composting methods section
- Seemed like a great balance, but regs and pile management may shorten a bit
- Feed stocks that did not apply to our area
- There was a great deal of material cover and I thought it was well done
- Feed stocks
- Setting-up a compost business
- Marketing

What additional topic(s) would you have liked information on?

- Lab analysis of procedures
- Soil biology and industry problem solving
- Organic standards / organic feed stock, certification
- Microbiology and what microbes really drive the process
- More information on large scale composting and vermicomposting
- Maturities of compost
- Soil nutrients

What topic(s) and /or speaker(s) helped you the most?

- Dr. Seekins deep knowledge of formulization science
- Bill Seekins & Mark King
- I loved the Maine team. They each had their different strengths
- Mark Hutchinson
- Biology of compost, site selection and regulations
- Understanding of compost biology and soils
- Mr. Cotton and regulations
- All of those related to large scale such as regulations, testing, equipment, etc.
- How to make good compost and understanding the effects of difference ingredients
- Feed stocks and Composting methods
- Basic pile management

Additional Comments: (use back of page for further remarks)

- Excellent allocation of USDA funds; should be repeated at Cal Poly annually.
- The classroom graphics were in color and very intelligible but many of the same graphics in the ring binder manual are too small to be read (and the text of them is lost when rendered to black and white). Excellent crew from Maine. I was impressed by their collective skill sets, experience, preparation and familiarity with what constitutes good presentation. They made a complex topic with hundreds of component parts intelligible, from biology to business.
- Some of the sessions repeated info.
- Too far to drive for field trip.
- Would love a two day specific course on CAFO "industrial," manure wind-rowed compost BMP's, on regulations, etc.

- Print notes in color, even if you have to charge more for the class, you cannot see images in black and white, tailor feed stocks to California based needs, have class meeting out at Dairy Products Technology Center close to the compost pile without so many distracting noises.
- This was a great experience for me, a great team of instructors, thorough knowledge base, and good handouts.
- Very well structured program, excellent presentations and detailed explanations to questions, hosting by Cal Poly was excellent!
- This was an exceptional course at a bargain price, it exceeded all my expectations, it was well organized, the instructors were friendly and knowledgeable, the tours interesting and applicable and the amenities were terrific.
- If the notebook has photocopies that go with the powerpoint we need to be able to see the copies; would help to have more fill-in in the workbook, like on the tests, would like optional take home homework to practice skills.

Would you recommend this workshop to others? (please circle one) Yes **21** No **0**