

SUSTAINABILITY

Creating Stewards of the Land— in a Hurry

If you're a Hawaii producer with a confined livestock operation, the year 2009 is just around the corner. That's the deadline to comply with federal and state clean water regulations regarding the disposal of animal waste. A concerted education effort to acquaint producers with the regulations and compliance has been mounted within the past year by CTAHR Cooperative Extension agents and specialists from all islands. The team includes Michael DuPonte, Glen Fukumoto, and Andrew Kawabata (Big Island), C. N. Lee (Oahu), Lincoln Ching and Kelly Gooding (Kauai), and John Powley (Maui). At the top of their agenda is teaching producers the importance of keeping careful daily records of their operations—something many of them have not traditionally done. Also critical is to teach best management practices and help the producers create plans for managing their animal waste. Last but by no means least, the CTAHR experts want producers to see their animal waste as an opportunity, not a problem. If producers marketed all the nutrient waste as compost, Hawaii would have no waste problem. Furthermore, Hawaii growers would be able to cut importation of expensive fertilizers by up to 20 percent. With the help of CTAHR, livestock producers will meet regulatory deadlines and avoid crippling fines. They may actually improve their bottom line, too.

CTAHR will help livestock producers meet regulatory deadlines



Livestock producers can eliminate their waste problems if they sell their animal waste as compost to Hawaii growers



An example of on-farm composting being done at a local dairy