

**Marketing Compost Manure to Public Entities
Texas Cooperative Extension
FY 01 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant
TCEQ Contract No. 582-2-44407**

Quarter no. 15 From 12/01/05 Through 2/28/06.

I. Introduction/Abstract

A draft final project report was submitted to TCEQ during this quarter. Due to the large file size it was sent via email and mailed as an electronic copy on a compact disc.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Specific Work Task within each Phase

PHASE 1

Task 1.1 Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) will serve as the prime contractor for the project and provide overall administration required fulfilling the "Technical Contractor" responsibilities under the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Composted Manure Incentive Project scope of work. Responsibilities include planning and facilitating meetings; negotiating subcontracts; submitting reimbursement documents and appropriate documentation of project progress; handling budget and fiscal reviews; adherence to Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and TCEQ nonpoint source management program; and ensure all activities, deliverables and tasks follow TCEQ contract provisions.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Administrative tasks completed by TWRI will fall under phase II activities from this point forward.

Task 2.1 Assess the potential market, the compost product quality, existing educational and promotional materials available for a composted manure marketing project, and research and demonstration needs.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. All tasks completed through phase I activities.

Task 2.2 Develop a strategic Compost Education and Marketing Plan (CEMP). The CEMP will include a Research/Demonstration Design Plan (RDDP) to address the research and demonstration needs and a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to address environmental data collection.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. All tasks completed through phase I activities.

Task 2.3 Implement the strategic CEMP. The CEMP will provide educational outreach, technical assistance, and documented materials for compost producers and users. It will also

provide for the direct marketing of composted manure. The CEMP will target both public entities and private citizens throughout the region.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Tasks completed will fall under phase II activities from this point forward.

Task 2.4 Develop a project web site comprised of technical information for project cooperators, demonstration locations and research data, sources of available compost, educational literature from TCE, and facts about TCEQ rebate program and the TCEQ and TSSWCB nonpoint source management program.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Tasks completed will fall under phase II activities from this point forward.

Task 3.1 Provide TCEQ with assistance for quality assurance activities. Compost production sites will be evaluated to ensure sound production practices and at least 20 random site visits will be conducted to monitor uses of compost to ensure applications, BMPs and rates are made in an environmentally appropriate manner.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Tasks completed will fall under phase II activities from this point forward.

Task 3.2 Where existing guidance literature is lacking, reports of current and past field trials and result demonstration activities will be documented and published. All effective compost production and use aspects will be documented in draft case studies, cost analysis and effectiveness assessment reports.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Tasks completed will fall under phase II activities from this point forward.

PHASE II

Task 1.1 TWRI will continue to provide overall administration required to fulfill the "Technical Contractor" responsibilities under the TCEQ Composted Manure Incentive Project scope of work in FY 2004. In addition to the responsibilities detailed in the Phase I scope of work, TWRI will negotiate a subcontract with a Compost Marketing Firm to assist with marketing and educational tasks.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report at this time.

Task 2.3 Implement the strategic CEMP. The CEMP will provide educational outreach, technical assistance, and documented materials for compost producers and users. It will also provide for the direct marketing of composted manure. The CEMP will target both public entities and private citizens throughout the region.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TCE received laboratory results from samples collected during the first and second rainfall simulation study and began data analysis. A final soil and water quality study report will be compiled and submitted to TCEQ during the next quarter.

Task 2.4 TWRI will maintain project web site by incorporating new information from the project's success in year 2. Information added to the web site will include, but is not limited to the following: results of compost use in field trials and demonstration programs from year 2 of the RDDP; success stories of compost use as a result of the project; and recent technical information obtained from project activities in year 2.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Internet user statistics of Project Website remained steady during quarter 13. Unique visitors for the month December, January, and February were tracked at 861, 1071 and 1127, respectively.
- b. Project Web site was modified to reflect termination of several project activities.

Task 3.1 Continue to provide TCEQ assistance with quality assurance activities by conducting at least 20 random site visits to monitor the beneficial uses of compost by participating state and local government entities and assess the agencies' and users' implementation of suggested BMPs.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report at this time.

Task 3.2 Where existing guidance literature is lacking, reports of current and past field trials and result demonstration activities will be documented and published. All effective compost production and use aspects will be documented in draft case studies, cost analysis and effectiveness assessment reports.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. A presentation on the results of the soil and water quality study conducted outdoors in 2003 and preliminary information on the study conducted indoors in 2005 was presented at the National Water Quality Conference (San Antonio, TX) in February.

Task 3.3 Develop and submit annual and final joint reports of 'success stories' including assessment and feasibility of program strategies so that similar programs could develop from the provided outline.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The draft final report was submitted to TCEQ via email on 12-29-05.
- b. Due to the large file size, an electronic copy of the draft final report was sent via postal mail on a compact disk on 1-30-06.

III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments

None to report at this time.

IV. Conclusion/Projected Work for Next Quarter

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

- a. A summary of the soil and water quality study will be completed and reported to TCEQ.
- b. TCE anticipates receiving comments from TCEQ regarding the draft final report and will make necessary changes and subsequently, submit a project final report.