



Rhode Island  
Department of Environmental Management  
Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment  
235 Promenade Street, Room 370  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**Rhode Island DEM/Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment  
Agricultural Composting Registration  
Instructions and Application Form**

Rhode Island Farms (as defined by RI General Law 2-23-4) that accept off-farm generated inputs of compostable materials must register their compost site, located on an agricultural unit, with the RI Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing. The RI Division of Agriculture will inspect the compost site to ensure that best farm management practices are being followed.

For more information or technical assistance, contact the DEM/Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing at the address below. The Soil Conservation Service and/or Cooperative Extension Service can also help farmers with technical support

Suggested reading for farmers considering starting a compost operation is the **ON-FARM COMPOSTING HANDBOOK** available from the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY 04853 5701.

**Requirements**

In order to apply for registration, you must return the following:

- a Complete application form, and
- b. Farm map with requested site information.
- c. Copies of Internal Revenue Form 1040 F filed for the last four years.

**Restrictions and responsibilities:**

1. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify the RI Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing before accepting any new material for composting that is not listed on their application form.
2. Compostable materials received from off-farm locations must be source separated from non-compostable materials such as plastic, metal, glass, etc.
3. Only clean uncontaminated organic matter may be composted on agricultural compost sites. Materials such as sewage sludge or demolition debris contaminated with paints, stains preservatives, etc. are examples of prohibited materials for use in agricultural composting.
4. If the applicant wants to expand the compost operation (beyond the existing registration parameters) by more than twenty-five percent (25%) either in volume of materials accepted, or in size of the compost site, the RI Division of Agriculture must be informed prior to increasing the capacity.

**Agricultural Compost Registration Application Form (pages 2-6)**

**I. Applicant/Farm Information**

Farm Name:

Applicant/Owner:

Address of Farm and Compost Site:

Telephone Number:

Mailing Address of Owner/or Compost Manager (If different from farm address):

Telephone Number:

List other farming activities:

Start-up date of compost operation on farm:

Rhode Island State Farm Tax Certification Number:

Farm acreage in agricultural production:

Acreage of compost site:

Number of people working on farm: Full Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Part Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## **II. Compost Site Information**

Attach a map of the farm. Please delineate the compost areas. The map should include:

- a.* Acreage of farm and boundaries,
- b.* All existing stone walls, fences, and hedgerows,
- c.* Acreage/size of compost site,
- d.* Existing uses of land adjoining the compost site and the farm,
- e.* Location of composting material, storage areas, mixing areas, windrow areas, curing areas, screening areas, etc.
- f.* Identification of occupied buildings within 250 feet of compost pad,
- g.* Identification of any vegetative buffers and distances between composting areas and abutting property owners or occupied buildings,
- h.* Access road(s) and drop-off area for delivery of off-farm materials,
- i.* Location of all out-buildings such as barns and animal sheds,
- j.* Location of any berms or swales for run-off and/or drainage control,
- k.* Location of any retention holding ponds and pumping stations for water run-off control,
- l.* Copy of Soil Conservation Service map relevant to compost site. (A minimum of 1.5 feet of soil is required between the composting surface and the highest water table level or bedrock),
- m.* Names of any surface water bodies within 500 feet of compost site,
- n.* Distance to any private well within 100 feet of the compost site (include copy of most recent water test),
- o.* Identification of any fresh water or coastal wetlands on the farm, and measures taken to protect wetlands from nutrient-rich run-off (vegetative buffer strips, berms, retention ponds, etc., and,

p. Sources of water for fire control and for maintaining proper windrow moisture levels.

**III. Composting Information of Input Materials.**

The total quantity of compostable materials to be handled on a yearly basis:

Total cubic yards: \_\_\_\_\_ Total tonnage: \_\_\_\_\_

List and describe the type of materials, the amount in cubic yards or tonnage per year, and the source of the materials (use the back of the page if more space is needed):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

**Describe the delivery process for the compostable materials. Include the size and type of vehicles that will be hauling materials, and your hours of operation.**



