

Zawitoski, John

To: Criss, Jeremy
Subject: RE: On-Farm Composting in Montgomery County Event: Thursday Dec. 3rd at 9:30am in Derwood

Item 8

From: Criss, Jeremy
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 4:03 PM
To: Criss, Jeremy
Cc: MCFC (mocofoodcouncil@gmail.com); 'Susan Wexler'; Susan Eisendrath; Kaley Laleker (klaleker@mde.state.md.us)
Subject: FW: On-Farm Composting in Montgomery County Event: Thursday Dec. 3rd at 9:30am in Derwood

Hello Everyone,

The Montgomery County Food Council's Environmental Impact Working Group, in partnership with the County Office of Agriculture, invites you to a special event for the Montgomery County agricultural community on Thursday, December 3rd from 9:30am-1:30pm in Derwood at the Agricultural History Farm Park: "On-Farm Composting in Montgomery County: Opportunities, Resources, and Challenges."

The main goal of the event is to share information on new opportunities for on-farm composting due to recent regulation changes.

The morning's agenda will feature presentations on the new on-farm composting regulation, including how it was developed, why it exists, and how the agricultural community can benefit from the new opportunities it provides.

The County Department of Environmental Protection will also discuss how farmers can help the County achieve its 2020 waste goals.

A catered working lunch will follow providing an opportunity for the speakers and attendees to connect with County and State officials, as well as non profit and business representatives involved with land use/composting/ solid waste and other environmental issues.

The facilitated discussions will help to share ideas and concerns about on-farm composting.

The Food Council will also ask for feedback on local agricultural and land use issues to identify how the Food Council can further support farmers, and share an update on the Food Council's recent efforts, including efforts to reduce food waste through food recovery and composting.

If you are currently composting on your farm you really must attend this event. If you are interested in learning how to generate additional farm income from composting you really should attend.

Please RSVP by Monday, November 16th at <http://evite.me/HYPy5Q8wjJ>.

In preparation for the event, we are surveying local farmers regarding on-farm composting. **Please take 2 minutes to complete the anonymous online survey by November 20th:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/78HYLR6>.

If you prefer, a hard-copy version of the survey is attached to this email.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact me Jeremy Criss (jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov; 301-590-2830) or Heather Bruskin, Food Council Manager (mocofoodcouncil@gmail.com; 806-395-5593)

We hope you will join us and we look forward to seeing you in December!

Jeremy V. Criss
The Office of Agricultural Services Manager
18410 Muncaster Road
Derwood, Maryland 20855
301-590-2830 (Office)
301-943-9766 (Cell)
301-590-2839 (Fax)
jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices>
CONNECT WITH The Office of Agriculture



-- **Heather Bruskin**
Manager, Montgomery County Food Council

Tel: 806-395-5593
Web: www.mocofoodcouncil.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mocofoodcouncil>
Twitter: MoCoFoodCouncil
Instagram: mocofoodcouncil



Thank you for supporting our local food system!

Montgomery County On Farm Composting Survey

Office of Agriculture

- Are you currently composting on your farm-property? Yes or No
 - If yes, please describe the types of organic materials from the farm you are composting.
 - If not, what are the reasons you are not composting?
- Are you composting with organic materials imported from off the farm? Yes or No
 - If yes, how are the materials transported?:
 - The Organic materials are picked up by you the farmer? Yes or No
 - The Organic materials are delivered by another farmer? Yes or No
 - The Organic materials are delivered by third party? Yes or No
 - If yes, please describe what types of organic materials you import to the farm.
- What are you doing with the final compost end product?
 - Are you applying the compost end product to your farm fields? Yes or No
 - Are you selling the compost end product to be used off the farm? Yes or No
 - Do you give the compost end product away for free? Yes or No
 - If yes who transports the compost end product:
 - The Compost end product is transported by you the farmer? Yes or No
 - The Compost end product is transported by another farmer? Yes or No
 - The Compost end product is transported by third party? Yes or No
- Did you know the Maryland Department of the Environment-MDE approved Compost Facilities Regulations this summer? Yes or No
- Are you interested in learning more about how the regulations will allow on farm composting? Yes or No
- Do you have a Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan for your farm? Yes or No
- Do you have a Nutrient Management Plan for your farm? Yes or No
- Please share any additional comments.