

Workshop: Boost Profits for Your Composting Operation with Value-Added Products

Summary:

In addition to manufacturing and selling compost, you can produce vermicompost and teas/liquid extracts that will sell for much higher prices. Is your compost selling for \$35 per cubic yard? How about feeding it to worms and selling the product (vermicompost) for \$700 per cubic yard? With the right packaging, you can sell vermicompost for 2-1/2 times that price. Zachary Brooks will describe his composting/vermicomposting/tea production operation and Rhonda Sherman will share profiles and tips from her new book *The Worm Farmer's Handbook: Mid- to Large-Scale Vermicomposting for Farms, Businesses, Municipalities, Schools, and Institutions*.

Instructors: Rhonda Sherman, NCSU, and Zachary Brooks, Arizona Worm Farm

Time: 8:30 to noon

Fee: \$205/USCC member, \$255/non-member

CCOM™/CCP™ PDHs: 3.5

Agenda:

- Vermicomposting versus Composting
- Benefits of Vermicompost
- Key Things to Know About Earthworms
- Vermicomposting Basics
- Choosing a Suitable System
- Pre-composting
- Harvesting and Post-Harvest
- Teas
- Profiles of Operations that Combine Composting and Vermicomposting

Participants will learn:

- how to add vermicomposting to their existing composting operation (or set up vermicomposting using compost as a feedstocks)
- earthworm husbandry skills
- equipment needs
- value of pre-composting
- making and selling vermicompost tea
- profiles of compost/vermicompost manufacturers

About the instructors:

Rhonda Sherman has been providing education and technical assistance on vermicomposting, composting, and waste reduction at NC State for 26 years. Rhonda is considered one of the leading authorities on vermicomposting, and organizes an annual conference on large-scale vermicomposting that draws participants from all over the world. Sherman gives ~40 presentations annually, has developed and conducted countless training courses and workshops, and created a variety of publications on composting and vermicomposting.

Contact:

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[Composting & Vermicomposting
Vermiculture Conference](#)
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Zachary Brooks has a 10-acre farm powered by solar and wind in Phoenix, Arizona. He creates compost to grow food and feeds worms, black soldier fly larvae, frass, and food waste to chickens that supply his family with eggs and meat. Zach makes and sells compost, vermicompost, and soil mixes. He has two Master's degrees and loves to teach vermicomposting.

Contact:

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