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## Radial Stacking Conveyors Pile Up Business Accolades

BY P.J. HELLER

**Z**ach Eaton remembers how long it used to take when loaders had to stack soil and mulch at the P.R. Russell facility in New Hampshire.

"If we got 20 trucks [with raw material] in a day, it would take all day and maybe some of the next day to stack it [the processed material] and get it up the hill with a loader," he says.

No longer.

"Today, what they would bring in in a week, we would be able to put up in a day," says Eaton, yard manager at Russell since 2007.

What brought about the boost in efficiency — along with several other benefits — was the addition of a radial stacking conveyor.

Stacking conveyors are used to stockpile material, such as soil, mulch, compost and aggregates, and can reduce or eliminate the need for wheel loaders. Conveyors can be fixed or tracked, allowing them to be easily moved around a facility. Models are available with varying feeder belt widths (i.e. 36 inch or 48 inch) and with various lengths or discharge heights, allowing for piles of different heights. Conveyors that rotate 180 degrees make it easy to place multiple piles next to each other.

While Eaton cites the productivity improvements with the radial stacking conveyor, he says the main emphasis for the purchase about eight years ago was due to skyrocketing fuel prices.

"When fuel prices were extremely high, we decided we needed to do something to the get material up the hill and not use so much fuel," he explains. "We went from using 60 to 70 gallons a day on a loader to using 6 to 8 gallons a day on a stacking conveyor with a 4-cylinder diesel.

"There definitely is a huge savings," he adds. "The machine definitely paid for itself within the first year."



In addition to the fixed 125-foot radial stacking conveyor with its 48-inch-wide belt — which can create a mulch pile 52 feet high with 11,000 yards of material — P.R. Russell also operates a smaller 80-foot tracked conveyor with a 36-inch belt.

"When it comes down to really producing, we use the bigger stacker," Eaton says, noting that with the company now in the throes of making product for the upcoming season, that larger conveyor "is definitely getting a workout."

Russell, based in Brentwood, NH, serves the New England area, selling bagged and bulk mulch and playground chips as well as bagged soils and compost.

The company is contemplating adding a third stacking conveyor.

The conveyors allowed Russell to achieve other benefits, including labor savings, cutting maintenance costs on its wheel loaders and improved safety.

Other soil and mulch producers echo those benefits.

"Yes, all those benefits are there using stacking conveyors," agrees Steve Jarahian, director of technical services at Oldcastle Lawn & Garden in Anderson, SC. "We installed

[stacking conveyors] at several plants over the last 10 years to save loader time, space and money."

"We have moved many plants over to conveying product especially when building stockpiles and feeding bag plants that are adjacent to the processing mills," adds Jim McKay, manager of regional operations for Oldcastle APG in the Northeast.

"Depending on the conveyor length and setup, you can stack 50,000 yards before moving one yard of material," Jarahian says.

Oldcastle has installed stacking conveyors at some of its more than 40 manufacturing plants located along the East Coast, the Gulf Coast of Florida and in the Midwest. The conveyors are a mix of rubber tire and tracked machines depending on terrain. They are used for stacking raw mulch, colored mulch, and screened pine bark fractions.

"Size, widths and lengths are all over the board," Jarahian says of the conveyors.

McKay notes that conveyors used in the mulch industry are typically equipped with 36-inch-wide belts and range in length from 20 to 300 feet.

*Continued on page 3*



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# Radial Stacking Conveyors Pile Up Business Accolades

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Oldcastle markets mulches, garden soils, potting mixes and soil amendments. Its retail brands include Jolly Gardener's Just Natural Organics; Timberline; Green 'n Grow, and Kolorscape. Oldcastle APG is also a manufacturer and supplier of concrete masonry, dry mix and hardscape products.

Larry Doose, president of Sylva Corp., in Princeton, MN, agrees that stacking conveyors are a boon to the industry.

Sylva, founded in 1997, is a manufacturer and wholesaler of bulk and bagged mulch, bagged soil and its SoftStep engineered wood fiber. It serves customers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin.

Doose reports a "substantial savings" using conveyors — the company has a total of six, including a tracked unit — versus wheel loaders.

"We don't have to use the wheel loaders as much," Doose says. "We used to have a dozer push piles up into the air. It would compress the pile and use a lot more energy. A conveyor uses a lot less energy to get material into a pile."

The conveyors also provide a greater margin of safety, he says.

"It's definitely safer, not having a machine up on a pile," he explains. "There's always a chance a machine could slide down or roll. So, we've reduced that exposure."

Eaton agrees.

Once piles get high enough, loader operators driving up and down them can be in danger, he says.

"We still create roads on our piles just in case we have any type of fire. We need to be able to get to the top. So, when we're stacking with the conveyor, we can build quite a big pile and then build a road up there with an excavator which is a lot safer than putting the loaders up on top," he says.

Using stacking conveyors to build large piles also allows companies to better utilize their yard space, providing them with more usable space in their processing yard, says Samuel DeLullo, vice president of sales at Woodbed, Corp., a division of DeLullo Trucking.

*Continued on page 4*

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# Radial Stacking Conveyors Pile Up Business Accolades

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A stacker can fit twice as much into a pile compared to other equipment, DeLullo says.

"We can utilize our property better," agrees Doose of Sylva Corp. "It's a nice efficient way of moving material and making piles."

DeLullo says a typical loader may only be able to pile mulch or soil 14 feet to 16 feet high before having to drive on the pile, causing compaction. Conveyors on the other hand offer the benefit to make the finish piles much bigger, he notes.

"With the stackers we currently have we can pile material up to 37 feet without driving on top of the piles," he says. "This is not something that is great to do with a raw product as you risk fire hazards if not done correctly."

Woodbed operates two mobile stackers and a permanent custom-built radial stacker.

"These stackers really help when it comes to cutting cost on flipping piles as it costs less to run a loader and stacker compared to a dozer," DeLullo says.

Woodbed, based in Saint Marys, PA, was started in 2005 and serves customers in Pennsylvania and New York. Products include mulch, wood chips, filter fiber and compost. DeLullo Trucking, started in 1990, brings in the raw materials to Woodbed, which turns them into finished products, then the trucking operation delivers those products to customers.

Numerous companies offer radial stacking conveyors that can be utilized by the soil, mulch and compost industry. Among them are Screen Machine Industries, headquartered in Etna, Ohio, Colorbiotics from BASF, Peterson Pacific in Eugene, OR, a subsidiary of Astec Industries, and Rotochopper in St. Martin, MN.

The Colorbiotics mulch conveyors all feature 36-inch belts and are available in lengths from 18 feet to 150 feet, with the most popular lengths being 50 and 60 feet. Depending on the length, they are equipped with either 10hp or 15hp motors.

While the Colorbiotics conveyors can handle a variety of materials, including aggregates, they are normally used in conjunction with the company's Sahara and Second Harvester mulch coloring systems.

"The conveyors we sell can be used to handle any material, including aggregates, anywhere a conveyor is needed," notes technical services manager David Roller, "but ours are specifically designed to incorporate and fit underneath and connect to our coloring systems."

The conveyors can pivot 180 degrees to create multiple piles next to each other. At a standard angle of 25 degrees, 810 cubic yards of mulch can fit under the 60-foot conveyor.

Peterson, in business since 1981, offers the TSR4280 tracked stacking conveyor, which it says can often eliminate the need for a wheel loader.

The conveyor is equipped with a 42-inch belt and its 80-foot conveyor length can stack materials up to 35 feet high. The conveyor, powered by a 58hp Kohler diesel engine, can pivot 180 degrees.

"Where the TSR4280 tracked radial stacking conveyor really excels is the ability to make 180-degree rows with over 11,000 cubic yard stockpiles in each row, a feature not found on many stacking conveyors," the company says on its website.

Screen Machine, founded in 1966, offers six portable radial stackers, ranging in size from 30 to 80 feet, according to its website. Depending on the size of the conveyor, belt sizes range from 18 inches to 36 inches. Most models are available with either an electric, hydraulic or diesel power module; the company's 60-foot portable track conveyor is powered by a self-contained 48hp Yanmar diesel engine, the company says.

"Portable stacking conveyors can fit any size operation. Being able to stockpile large amounts of material in high and wide piles without constantly repositioning your equipment is key to uninterrupted productivity," the company says.

Rotochopper, with some three decades in the industry built on its grinding equipment, has partnered with Superior Industries to sell and support conveyor systems. Offerings include radial stacking conveyors in a wide variety of sizes, a 75-foot tracked stacking conveyor with a 42-inch belt and a portable 60-foot channel frame conveyor with 36-inch belt.

*Cover photo courtesy of DeLullo Trucking / Woodbed, Corp.*

## Here Are a Few Companies That Offer Stacking Conveyors

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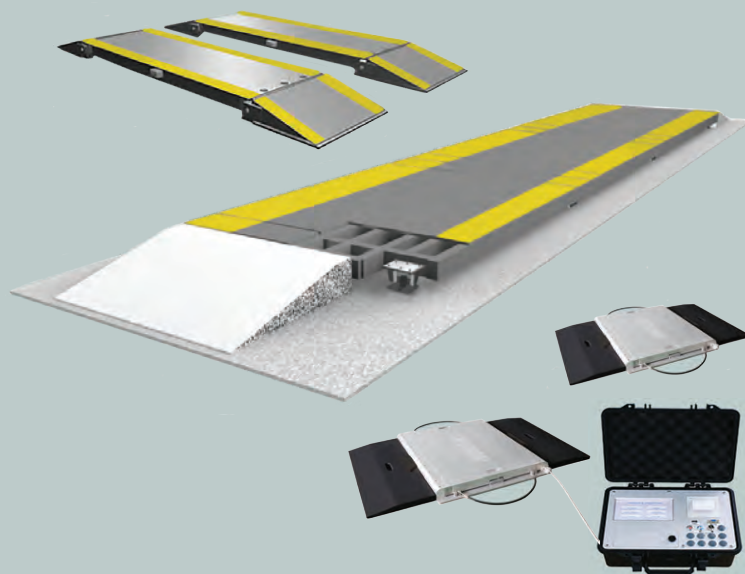
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## Housing Starts and Lumber Prices Continue Upward Climb

**A**s the trend of soaring housing starts and lumber prices continues, home builders concerned about costs and mill capacity have sought assistance from President Trump, according to HBSDealer.com

In August, sales of newly built, single-family homes topped the one million mark, reaching their highest pace since September 2006, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) reported.

Both NAHB and National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association (NLBMDA) sent letters to the Trump Administration asking for assistance in ensuring that domestic production can sustain the increased demand for new homes.

According to Madison's Lumber Prices, single-family housing starts in August were at a rate of 1,021,000. This is +4% above the revised July figure of 981,000. Single family starts were up +12% year-over-year. Single-family building permits increased +6% to a rate of 1,036,000 units.

The price for framing softwood lumber soared +\$214, or +29% since July, when it was \$746 per thousand board feet. Compared to mid-September 2019, this price is up an +\$584, or +155%. As September began, softwood lumber prices flattened or dropped for the first time in many months, with benchmark softwood lumber commodity item Western spruce/pine/fir (S-P-F) 2x4 down -\$6, or -0.6%, compared to the previous week, Madison's reported.

In their letters to the Trump Administration, both trade groups cited COVID-19 impacts on the home building industry. NLBMDA asked the Trump Administration to work with state officials to ensure state and local action does not interfere with production. NAHB asked the Administration to urge domestic lumber producers to increase production to ease growing shortages. Each group also took the opportunity to push for negotiation of a new softwood lumber agreement with Canada.

The United States purchases approximately 65% of Canada's dimension lumber production mostly for home construction framing.

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## Ohio State University Program to Support Manure Composting

**W**ASHINGTON, D.C. – The Ohio State University will receive \$74,600 in funding from the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP) to support a composting program intended to reduce phosphorus runoff, reports a article.

Under the grant, specialists from the OSU College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences will promote composting to livestock producers and other farmers located in the state's northwest watershed. Once they become part of the program, farmers will receive advisement on soil conditions and composting from the university, be able to share knowledge with peers, and rent the equipment needed to compost solid ("pen pack") manure.

Stricter runoff regulations are causing livestock farmers to consider new and unique ways to reduce volume, weight, and moisture of solid manure being transported to fields in need of phosphorus.

According to an article in the Ohio Beef Cattle Letter published by the OSU Extension office, pen-pack manure contains the macro nutrients nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash along with a host of micronutrients. The nutrient content can vary depending on species, feed products fed, and the amounts of straw or sawdust used for bedding. The farm's manure handling and storage practices also impact the nutrient content of manure. Manure stored under a roof usually maintains a higher nutrient value than manure exposed to rainfall.

Composting solid manure has been shown to reduce the volume and weight of manure nutrients by 40-50% over raw manure while increasing nutrient stability, density, and consistency.

The Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program is a state and federal partnership managed by the Great Lakes Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and the eight Great Lakes states. It is directed by a regional Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force that includes representatives from the eight Great Lakes states, NRCS and U.S. EPA. The GLSNRP has provided millions of dollars in support throughout the Great Lakes Basin since it was established in 1988 by the Great Lakes Commission.



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## Maine Start-up Receives a \$40K State Grant to Build Composting Facility

**B**ROOKLIN, ME – A \$40,000 grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) will fund construction of a new food and yard waste composting facility serving Blue Hill Peninsula, reports [WeeklyPacket.com](http://WeeklyPacket.com).

Chickadee Compost received a start-up grant from the Maine Farmland Trust's Blue Hill Peninsula Community Food Grant program in 2019. The Brooklin facility is one of seven Maine composting projects that will share \$129,628 of a total \$461,247 in funding during the first-round grant awards.

Sited on 51 acres, organic waste will be composted in windrows. Only 2-3 acres of the lot will be used for composting, while the remaining 48-49 acres will remain as forest, Chickadee's owner said. The MDEP grant supports purchase of a dump trailer, toter bins, along with site preparation and development.

Wood shavings, sawdust, wood chips, and bedded horse manure will be added to food waste at a ratio of about 4:1, or 4 parts dry carbon to 1-part food waste. The first phase of the facility is projected to divert and process 22,000 pounds of food scraps, and up to 330,000 pounds by year four, according to plans submitted to DEP.

According to the Chickadee website, partnerships are being negotiated with larger businesses and organizations, who will be able to subscribe to the facility's food scrap pick-up service. Residents can drop off their waste in bins at designated drop-off points.

The company aims to have its first batch of finished compost available for purchase in spring 202. Residents also will be able to buy the compost by the truckload or 5-gallon BYOB—bring your own buckets.

The DEP will begin accepting a second round of food waste recycling grant proposals in October.

## Judge Rejects Mulch Maker's Registration Renewal

**F**ORT MYERS, FL – A state administrative judge ruling against the Fort Myers-based MW Horticulture Recycling effectively prevents the company from renewing its state permit for mulch production, according to a [News-Press.com](http://News-Press.com) article.

The company violated state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations and fire safety standards, including unauthorized open burning of debris, failure to provide sufficient access to fire trucks and failure to reduce the size of debris piles. The huge volumes of wood waste had accumulated at the mulcher's processing yards in North Fort Myers and San Carlos during Hurricane Irma cleanups in late 2017.

Complaints from residents about the mountains of debris, as well as numerous fires – more than 125 in three years – resulted in citations. The judge attributed the fires to spontaneous combustion — the ignition of flammable material due to the growth of mold and other internal pressure in the mounds of organic material.

Although the judge's decision was critical of the company's handling of the debris (compacting it with heavy equipment) and fire code violations, she refused to recommend that MW Horticulture be designated an "irresponsible applicant." The designation "irresponsible applicant" is a formal finding that an applicant "could have prevented (violations) through reasonable compliance with department rules."

MW Horticulture owners promised to bring operations into compliance with DEP regulations for waste wood processing, as well as fire safety rules.

Pending DEP's final decision on the matter, MW Horticulture will need to seek a permit to operate as a solid waste management facility, which requires a more stringent, and costlier, application process and higher operating costs.

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## Biocatalysts: Scientists Study Key Enzymes for Transforming Woodwaste

**B**OCHUM, GERMANY – A new breakthrough in converting wood waste into useful chemicals for creating new products – and energy – looks promising, according to a [Nanowerk.com](#) article.

Researchers from the Microbial Biotechnology department at Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB) are investigating a highly complex process that transforms lignin, the constituent that gives plants structure, into the enzyme, ferulic acid. Ferulic acid has potential as a catalyst that could be scaled up and used in recycling wood products into other useful products.

Study of wood lignin is part of a bio-economic strategy being pursued by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The strategy holds that raw materials should be cheap and sustainable and serve as the energy source for the production process. Currently, the chemical industry entirely depends on carbon compounds from petroleum for producing inorganic polymers that are used in creating paints, adhesives, artificial fibers, fertilizers, pesticides and plastics.

Scientists around the world are focusing on lignin because it is a natural resource with potential. As an organic polymer found in the cell walls of plants, lignin can be processed into an alternative to fossil-based petroleum. From there, it can be used to make the variety of products.

The RUB lab experiments use wood waste from the furniture and paper industries to derive ferulic acid, as well as sugar components that are a suitable energy source for bacteria. The process results in making more ferulic acid and the residual material that is high in sugar can be used to make energy.

## Denser Forests Mean More Biomass Available for Energy

**D**AVIS, CA – A University of California Davis researcher says the state's forests are 80%-600% denser than 150 years ago, but fire suppression policy has contributed to increased risk of wildfires, reports [GVWire.com](#).

UC Davis researcher and U.S. Forest Service research ecologist Malcolm North says that California's typical mid-elevation level ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests used to have about 60 trees per acre about 150 years ago. Findings of a study conducted by UC Davis and USDA show that California forests currently have 165 to 170 trees per acre. North thinks this may be a conservative estimate. In some places, there may be 600 trees per acre, he adds.

As forestry experts discuss controlled burns and selective logging to thin the stands, Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Steve Daines (R-Mont.) have introduced the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act. If passed, the bill would create a program to incentivize the collection of woody biomass and help expand processing facilities to make biomass more economically viable.

Environmentalists and others express concerns about overall forest and human health, biomass advocacy groups, such as California Biomass Energy Alliance cite

California Senate Bill 859 signed by Gov. Brown in 2016, which guaranteed five-year contracts for biomass mills with Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas and Electric. Those contracts have been extended another five years. Currently, California has 20 biomass mills

A Sierra-wide analysis conducted showed only 28% of the forests can even be mechanically thinned, according to North. He estimated that 72% of the forests would require prescribed fire burns to provide fire resistance and good health and logging of intermediate-sized trees, between 20 to 24-inch diameter to offset costs.

## Vermont's Food Waste Ban is Keeping Composters Busy

**N**ORTHEAST KINGDOM, VT – As the final phase of Act 148, the state's 2012 recycling and composting law came into effect in July, many counties saw a major influx of food waste, a [VT Digger](#) article reports.

According to a Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District representative, food waste bin collection from the 49 towns it serves across five counties practically has doubled since the end of June.

In southern Vermont, demand for bins went up by about a third, a waste district spokesperson there said.

Composters are grappling with the food waste explosion – one farm received as much as 7 tons in August - and bracing for the holidays, which they expect will bring another increase.

Some waste districts are responding by increasing weekly pickups, while others are selling more home-composting units than ever before. In any case, the number of collection bins have multiplied across the state.

Prior to Vermont's food waste ban, a number of independent composters and farmers were sourcing organic materials from schools, restaurants and other large generators. The effect of the ban, however, has compelled residents to quickly jump on the composting bandwagon.



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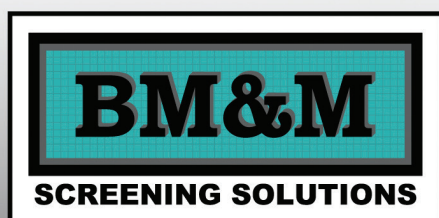
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## Hurricane Laura – Early Reports Estimate Extensive Timber Losses in Louisiana

**B**ATON ROUGE, LA – As the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry make aerial surveys to assess damage from Hurricane Laura, early observations point to timber losses comparable to those caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, according to **Voice of Louisiana Agriculture**.

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter) has received informal reports from several small private forest landowners about complete loss of their timber acreage. Some of them are still recovering from Hurricane Rita, which barreled through the area 15 years ago. An AgCenter spokesperson says that conventional logging equipment cannot be used to cut downed trees and bringing in crews with chainsaws could violate some landowners' insurance provisions.

A Hurricane Laura Response Task Force has formed and is being coordinated by Louisiana Forestry Association to help with assessment and recovery. The task force is a coalition of state and federal natural resource agencies, private industry and AgCenter representatives.

A challenge for timber landowners is that many rely on money made at harvest to site prep and replant tracks of land. Now those landowners have lost that harvest. The storm damage will triple the cost of doing site prep on their land.

## Tongass National Forest Logging Project Review Continues

**J**UNEAU, AK – Despite protests and conservationists and concerns voiced by certain members of the timber industry, a plan for logging of old-growth forest in a part of Alaska's Tongass National Forest is still under consideration, according to an **Anchorage Daily News** article.

Located near Ketchikan, the South Revilla project is expected to support about 300 regional jobs. The proposal calls for removing a mix of old and young stands of trees for timber sales over the next 15 years, a U.S. Forest Service said.

The Forest Service's draft environmental review, released in August, explains "the intent of the South Revilla Project is to contribute jobs and labor income in local and regional communities in the timber and tourism sectors, contribute to improved terrestrial and aquatic conditions, support access to subsistence resources, and provide safe access to Forest users. Actions proposed include, but are not limited to, cabin construction, timber harvest, stream restoration, and road construction."

The document also notes that removing old-growth habitat may further fragment the forest, eliminating connectivity important to deer, wolf, mountain goat, marten and bear in an area used by subsistence hunters. Additionally, the logging also would impact Alexander archipelago wolves by decreasing prey in the deer habitat for 150 years or longer.

The agency has spent about \$5.1 million in planning and preparation and offering a timber sale would cost another \$8 million. Timber sales from the project would be concentrated in the Carroll Inlet area, a patchwork of federal and state lands mixed with areas that have already been clear-cut by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Forest Service said.

The agency justified the work by noting a steady supply of economic timber is needed to support Southeast Alaska's forest products industry. But last year, the Alaska Forest Association said that the South Revilla project overlaps with a previous Saddle Lakes project that was aborted over a lack of interest.



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## Cornstalk Biochar Additive Can Reduce Compost Ammonia Emissions

**G**UANGZHOU, CHINA – A team of scientists in China have found that modified cornstalk biochar has the potential for effectively reducing odors associated with composting, according to a [ScienceDirect.com](#) article.

The collaborative study was conducted by researchers from the Guangdong Laboratory for Lignan Modern Agriculture of South China Agricultural University, the Guangzhou Ministry of Agriculture, and two independent technology centers. A key finding was that modified cornstalk biochar (CB) added to compost increased the number of ammonia-oxidizing bacteria and decreased urease activity, thus reducing  $\text{NH}_3$  emissions by regulating nitrification processes.

Biochar, a solid product of biomass under pyrolysis or gasification treatment has a high lignin content, which adds bulk to compost while retaining nutrients as organic matter breaks down.

According to the International Biochar Initiative (IBI), the combination of biochar and compost is a good match. Ideal feedstocks for composting have from 60 – 70% moisture, high nutrient levels, and low lignin content. Ideal feedstocks for biochar, such as field residues or woody biomass, have 10 – 20% moisture and high lignin content.

Besides reducing compost processing odors, another advantage of adding biochar to the composting process are shorter composting times and increased bulk in compost.

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions (methane,  $\text{CH}_4$  and nitrous oxide,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ), along with reduced ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) losses were observed in the experiments. The Guangzhou researchers say that adding 10%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  modified cornstalk biochar (CB) to compost could significantly reduce  $\text{NH}_3$  emissions by 61.69%.

## Nova Scotia Forest Industry Riding High on Lumber Boom

**E**LMSDALE, NOVA SCOTIA – High demand for lumber along with high prices are offsetting economic devastation that had been expected after the Northern Pulp mill was closed last January, a [CBC.ca](#) article reports.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused people to spend more time at home, leading to a burst of improvement and renovation projects requiring lumber. In addition, the housing starts in Canada and the U.S. were already running high. Data from Natural Resources Canada show the price per 1,000 board feet of eastern two-by-fours has more than doubled since this time last year.

A Forest Nova Scotia representative said that sawmills are experiencing a boom that is having a trickle-down effect on the rest of the industry. Logging and trucking operations have picked up. As well, the higher lumber prices have offset the lower prices mills are getting for wood chips.

While the current rosy picture is a welcome surprise, mill operators accustomed to the cyclic nature of their industry told CBC they know this won't last forever.

The Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation Northern Bleached Softwood Kraft pulp mill in Pictou County was shut down after failing to secure approval to build a new effluent treatment facility (ETF). In October 2019, Northern Pulp mill had submitted plans for the facility, which featured advanced technology processing and a 15 km overland and underwater transmission pipeline and specially constructed marine outfall.

The proposed project failed to move forward when Premier Stephen McNeil signed the Boat Harbor Act. McNeil's move came after years of complaints about pulp mill pollution, topped by a 2014 effluent spill caused by a broken pipeline on tribal land. To help the 2700 forestry workers, including 350 plant employees, McNeil approved a \$50-million transition fund.

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## Sustainably Derived Animal Feed Additive Can Reduce Need for Antibiotics

**A**MSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS – In its quest to reduce and ultimately, eliminate dependence on fossil fuels, an Amsterdam-based company is scaling up and is now ready to serve the animal feed market with fatty acids made from fruit and vegetable residues, reports an **All About Feed** article.

In 2010, the company, ChainCraft, acquired a patent for the novel fermentation technology to convert organic residues into fatty acids. The process was invested at the Wageningen University. After further developing the process on a lab scale, ChainCraft scaled up the process to a pilot plant in 2014 with the help of venture-capital investors. Within a year, the company was able to produce a few thousand kilos of fatty acids and begin testing the product in animal feed trials. Today, ChainCraft has the capacity to produce 20,000 tons of organic residues into 2,000 tons of fatty acids.

ChainCraft's multi-stage fermentation and filtration process results in powdered or liquid form fatty acids – C4, butyric acid and Caproic acid (C6). While C4 improves gut tissues, C6 improves livestock gut health, providing effective protection against gram-negative bacteria, such as salmonella and E. coli. It also combats viruses by enhancing RNA degradation.

Fatty acids may be used to make plasticizers, herbicides and coatings, areas the company plans to explore in the future.

## Freestate Farms Opens Advanced Composting Facility in Manassas

**M**ANASSAS, VA – A state-of-the-art composting facility promises to almost triple throughput, improve the quality of compost, and add the ability to process food waste for Prince William County, reports **PrinceWilliamLiving.com**.

The Balls Ford Road Yard Waste Composting Facility, which broke ground in 2018, will divert a projected 80,000 tons of organic waste from the county landfill, extending its life by 10 to 15 years, according the county website. Initially, the composting facility will accept mainly institutional food and yard waste.

Fauquier County-based Freestate Farms fully funded the project under a 20-year contract signed in 2015. The addition of the food waste processing results in a cost per ton that is not significantly higher than the county bore for processing yard waste, which the county has been doing since 1994, a county official explained.

Instead of 9-12 months, compost made using the advanced technology will be ready in about a third of that time. The composting process begins with shredding the waste, removing plastics and other non-organic material on a sorting line, and processing and curing the resulting organic material in large concrete bins with controlled air flow to speed the composting process and control any odors.

Freestate sells the finished compost mainly to commercial users for \$22 per cubic yard, but residents can also buy a minimum of a cubic yard, the official said.

## Vicksburg Forest Products Invests \$40 Million, Adds 60 Jobs

**V**ICKSBURG, MS – Mississippi-based lumber business Vicksburg Forest Products will invest \$40 million into its operations, creating 60 jobs, according to a company statement.

In 2018, Vicksburg Forest Products purchased the Vicksburg sawmill from the Anderson-Tully Co. and converted it to a pine lumber operation as part of a long-term growth strategy.

The company is implementing significant upgrades throughout the mill. The addition of a high-speed chip-n-saw line will increase production capacity from 75 million to 180 million board feet annually by the summer of 2021 when facility upgrades are completed.

Around 800,000 tons of timber will feed the upgraded mill annually - all purchased from landowners in the surrounding areas. The company has signed a turnkey contract with a leading equipment provider, and construction is scheduled to begin October.

The mill, which is located directly on the Mississippi and Louisiana State Line, has a Kansas City Southern (KCS) railroad spur. KCS provides daily runs by the mill for transport to Midwestern, Texas and Mexico markets.

Assistance from the Mississippi Development Authority is helping to fund rail, infrastructure, building improvements, and road construction. The city of Vicksburg also is providing assistance with infrastructure projects.

Vicksburg, whose ownership also runs Mississippi-based Southeastern Timber Products, bought the former Anderson-Tully mill in June 2018, hiring 125 workers. The company then switched production from hardwood to southern pine lumber.



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## TS30 Launches New Generation of Wireless Intercomp Scale Indicators

**I**ntercomp, one of the world's largest manufacturers of portable vehicle weighing and measurement products, introduces the TS30™ CPU, an advanced



touchscreen indicator for self-contained operation of portable scales. The touchscreen display and intuitive graphic user interface of the standalone wireless indicator and control unit allows truck scale operators to create tickets and weighing records remotely. The innovation provides the ability to efficiently run monitoring programs for applications like weight compliance, inventory tracking, and safety screening.

Intercomp's TS30™ CPU provides the ability to collect, display, and save individual wheel, axle, gross, Tare, and NET weights by communicating with scale pads via RFX® Wireless Weighing, on a single screen in real time. Customizable data fields, such as user session information for scale operation on a particular day, and/or location and vehicle-specific information can also be associated with saved records and included on tickets from the integrated printer. Additional customization options, specifically tailored for unique data needs, can also be added via USB.

**For more information, contact Intercomp at 800-328-3336, 763-476-2531 or [info@intercompcompany.com](mailto:info@intercompcompany.com) or visit them on the web at [IntercompCompany.com](http://IntercompCompany.com).**

## Vermeer Introduces the TR6400 Trommel Screen

**V**ermeer continues to expand its trommel screen product line with the introduction of the new TR6400 model, capable



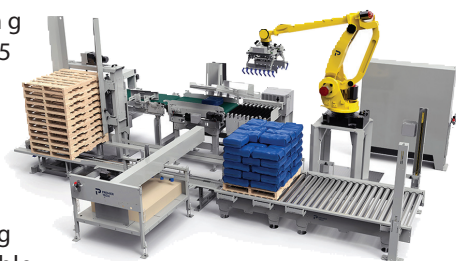
of separating up to 180 cubic yards (137.6 cu m) of material per hour with .5-inch (12.7-mm) screens installed and a material moisture content of less than 40%. It features a powerful 100-horsepower (75-kW) Deutz 3.6L Tier 4 Final (Stage IV) engine, a 6.5-foot (2-m) diameter screen drum with variable speeds of 0-33.1 gallons per minute (0-125.3 L/min), a low hopper infeed with a capacity of 6.5 cubic yards (5 cu m) and various service and operating enhancements. The new TR6400 complements the smaller Vermeer TR5300 trommel screen in the product line and is designed for topsoil, compost and woody biomass applications.

"The TR6400 trommel screen builds off the success of our recently introduced TR5300 model," explained Jeff Bradley, product manager for recycling and forestry equipment at Vermeer. "Its compact design allows for ease of transportation and maintenance. With a large drum diameter, hopper capacity and increased horsepower, teams will be able to produce large volumes of finished material with the TR6400 day in, day out."

**For more information about the Vermeer TR6400 trommel screen, visit [vermeer.com](http://vermeer.com) or contact your local Vermeer dealer.**

## Premier Tech Introduces a Faster Robotic Palletizer

**D**elivering up to 25 bags per minute, the Premier Tech AR-225 model is one of the fastest robotic bag palletizers available



on the market. Compact and offering low and easy maintenance, the AR-225 is the ideal solution for a robotic option at a lower cost compared to a conventional palletizer.

Fully automatic, it offers tremendous versatility and lowers downtime with its pallet magazine and dispenser that can handle pallets of different sizes. The high-speed robotic palletizer is also capable of handling bags, bales and bundles, and when slip and top sheets are required the robot can be programmed to pick the sheets from a bin and place them on the pallet. For maximum speed, automatic slip and top sheet dispensers can be added so that the robot can focus solely on palletizing.

The Pattern Expert, an intuitive and user-friendly interface, allows users to easily modify existing palletizing patterns and to create new ones with highly accurate bag positioning. Available in multiple languages, the user interface is accessible remotely by Premier Tech whenever support is required.

**For more information call Premier Tech at 866-571-7354 or visit their website at [PTSYSTEMSAUTOMATION.COM](http://PTSYSTEMSAUTOMATION.COM).**

## Water Saving Granules Reduce Water Usage by up to 50%!

**D**eveloped by Australian Growing Solution company Scientists, to combat extreme soil dehydration, Water Saving Granules (WSG) is an all-natural alternative to chemical-based wetting agents. This product is used widely in Japan, Australia and New Zealand, where growing plants is a virtual national sport. It has become the norm to add in Water Saving Granules to potting mixes and garden and tree soils as a basic part of the growing media recipe.



This proprietary blend contains coconut coir and non-toxic biodegradable ingredients (MSDS sheet is available upon request) and is sold in individual 20-pound buckets or 2000 lb Bulk Bag Totes. Water Saving Granules can reduce water usage by up to 50% by retaining valuable moisture and plant nutrients, while backing off the evaporation process in hot climate conditions.

WSG works by channeling water and thus nutrients directly to the root zone of plants. This improves moisture and nutrient distribution, promoting plant growth. This product is perfect for transporting plants, seedlings, and shrubs over long distances. It works exceptionally well for turf and landscaping applications as it allows for a more vibrant and greener grass. Apply this product directly or mix into the soil.

**For more information, call WSG / ACME at 866-517-4699.**





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### **Density and Viscosity.**


Although mulch colorants are purchased by the pound, they are consumed by the gallon. When a mulch producer sets the desired color, regardless if by a peristaltic pump or a mixing chamber, it is imperative to know how much color is being applied and the cost associated with it. By using a product with uniform density and consistent viscosity batch to batch color costs can be more accurately established.

### **Tint Strength and Filter Checks**

Consistent tint strength helps the mulch producer make consistent colored mulch. Tint strength is determined by comparing a specific batch against a liquid standard. While processing pigments, AgriCoatings periodically takes color readings, examines the mill filters for particle size and then adjusts the color; maximizing pigment efficiency. The dispersion of the pigments allows the color system to adequately cover the mulch. Some people refer to this as "hide".

C of A's offer the mulch producer important data and assures, with relative certainty, that the next batch will be the same as the last. An **AgriCoatings Certificate of Analysis** is a straight forward document, easily understood and is provided with every shipment...at no charge. Publicizing this report requires us to be ever vigilant in our practices and procedures.

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