

WASTE NEWS

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Feedyard finds ways to use waste

By Joe Truini

KANSAS CITY, MO. — For Gary Teague and his wife, Laura, being neighborly has opened up several business opportunities to beneficially reuse organic waste.

The couple owns and operates Teague Diversified Inc., a Fort Morgan, Colo.-based commercial feeding operation complete with 28,000 head of cattle. Each animal generates 20 to 40 pounds of manure per day, a waste challenge that the Teagues could have dealt with taking the easy road.

Farmers were more than willing to take all the manure Teague Diversified generated to land-apply on their fields.

“He’d put that stuff on his truck and he’d take off down the road, and it’s falling off the truck, and every time he turns a corner, there’s a big pile of manure on the road,” Gary Teague said. “And that didn’t sit well with us.”

Teague spoke at the 2004 Byproducts Summit in Kansas City held Nov. 8-9, and shared his experience beneficially using not only his own but other organic byproducts to further build his business.

“Nobody’s got to have a feedyard in their backyard,” Teague said. “It’s not a real pleasant thing to live near, especially if

you’re not a good neighbor.”

That led to Teague Diversified’s composting business, which allows the company to control its waste stream as well as sell it.

“I know in my heart what is right,” Teague said. “And it’s not tough to distinguish what is right versus what is wrong.”

Teague Diversified began laying out the manure in windrows on a permitted 17-acre site in its feedyard to compost the material. The operation evolved to the point that the company was backhauling carbon sources for its composting and bringing in oth-

er organic waste from local cheese manufacturers, dairy farmers and cattle processors at a rate of 40 to 50 semi truckloads per day to add moisture to the piles.

The company land-applies the compost at area farms and also offers it for commercial road applications.

The system provided needed resources for Teague Diversified’s composting operation, and it also reused the waste streams of several other companies.

“All those guys have problems they have to deal with,” Teague said. ■



Teague

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