



// Trending Topics from the VMST

Composting

When it comes to taking care of your ranch, we're into more than controlling weeds and brush.

Just like you, Bayer is always looking at the big picture – that's the protection, productivity and profitability of your entire ranch.

Take composting for example – whether you're selling hay or moving manure to a compost facility, you want to make sure you're mitigating risk from the get go. Here's a look at how you can do that.

//// Ensuring quality compost while mitigating your risk

As a rancher, you may be more connected to the compost industry than you realize. That said, herbicide selection is a very important starting point when developing a program for any crop. You should be aware that many available herbicides contain label restrictions that prevent you from moving hay or manure into the compost stream. This is especially true for improved pasturelands – which may include production systems that are grazed, hayed, or both. These production systems often require herbicides to control undesirable weeds that impact the quality and/or quantity of forage or hay produced.

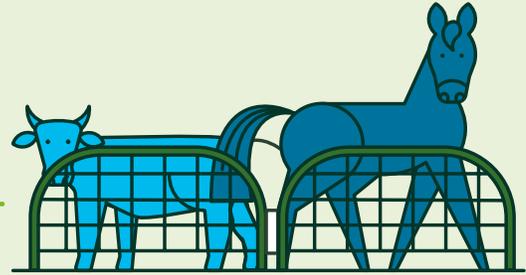
Although many products are available to control unwanted weeds, they are not equal in their ability to control these pests nor in their fate after sprayed. One critical concern is the persistent nature of some auxin-mimicking herbicides such as aminopyralid, picloram, and clopyralid (components of GrazonNext®, Grazon P+D, Chaparral™, Sendero®, Reclaim® herbicides, and various other generic products). These actives ingredients are found in many commonly used herbicides in improved pastures today. These herbicides remain active in the forage long after application and even after the forage is harvested or grazed. If this hay or the resulting manure is used as fertilizer, compost, or mulch around sensitive crops, damage to susceptible garden, ornamental, and/or row crop species may occur.

Today many state, county, and local communities mandate the composting of materials derived from plant and animal materials (food wastes, lawn and garden materials, grass clippings, leaves, hay, manure, animal carcasses, etc). Hay and manure have been identified as two major sources of persistent herbicide contamination for the compost industry. As the compost industry continues to grow and expand its ability to recycle our natural resources, agricultural producers need to be mindful that their actions and specifically their herbicide program selection may negatively impact this vital industry.

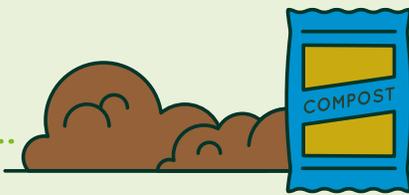
//// Manage herbicide persistence in forage and manure with Bayer



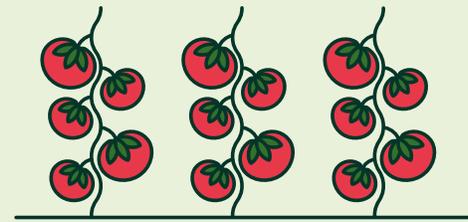
Some herbicides used for forage and/or hay production stay active in the vegetation (even after harvest).



Manure excreted from animals that consumed treated hay may contain herbicide active ingredients.



These persistent herbicides do not breakdown quickly during the manufacturing process of compost.



If contaminated manure, hay, and/or compost is applied to a susceptible crop or garden, these herbicides can cause damage.

To service the needs of the hay production industry while helping safeguard the composting industry, Bayer offers Cimarron® MAX, Cimarron Plus, Pastora® and Velpar® L VU herbicides for improved pasture producers. These products are effective tools for controlling many broadleaf and grass weeds. They are not persistent in the forage, harvested hay, or resulting manure and thus pose limited risk to the composting industry should the treated plant material or resulting manure be used for compost. Always read and follow label directions regarding intervals for grazing and/or haying.

For more information about herbicide selection visit vm.bayer.us

// Cimarron PLUS // Cimarron MAX
// Pastora // Velpar L VU



ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS.
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