

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Let's talk about compost!

Compost is defined as “decayed organic material used as plant fertilizer”. There are a lot of ways to make compost in your own backyard. You can create a pile of kitchen scraps, leaves, woodchips, and water that needs to be turned about once a week. This is called **aerobic composting**, meaning oxygen breaks down the food waste as well as microbes and insects. If you don't have a lot of space or don't want a pile that will run over its allotted area try a **compost tumbler**! These compact plastic tubs make turning your compost easy. Just fill the tub with kitchen waste, leaves, and woodchips and tumble it once a week. This keeps the compost all in one place and can even help it heat up, which accelerates decomposition.



Feeding chickens your compostable scraps can be a cost-effective way to feed a flock and they get a range of nutrients. The end result? Delicious eggs!



Pigs at Billings Farm & Museum composting pumpkins.



Chickens at Billings Farm & Museum composting gourds.

Composting with animals is another great option. Pigs are excellent at eating kitchen waste and can eat most things you might prepare in your kitchen. They will turn that waste into usable manure and the pigs can be used for meat. Chickens are another animal composting option.

Once a compost pile is established, chickens will aid in the decomposition process by scratching at it. This aerates the compost and helps speed up the process. By throwing kitchen scraps on top of the pile, chickens will eat what they want, which lessens the feeding burden. These compost piles still need to be turned about once a week to continue breaking down.