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## FREE RESOURCE IN YOUR NEVADA COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD

*Marney Blair, Nevada County Recycles*

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There is wisdom to be gleaned from the gardeners and farmers of the past. One of the most resourceful practices was the composting of barnyard manures. Manure from chickens, pigs, cow, and horses were readily available. The grower would gather these various manures and, with loving care, produce the most beautiful nutrient-dense amendment for their plants.

Luckily, today we still have the capacity to make these inexpensive amendments. The local countryside is spotted with cows, chickens, and horses.

Unfortunately, the manure produced by these animals is a resource that goes largely unutilized. Because of this neglect, the quality of our water and soils becomes compromised. Instead we could become resourceful like our ancestors and utilize this wonderful gift from nature. Just as the leaves provide rich humus for the trees after they decompose, so too does manure from animals provide fertility for the soils that we cultivate.

Compost made from animal manure is high in organic matter, has a balanced pH and is teeming with microorganisms. Compost made from barnyard manures acts as a wonderful soil inoculate, it could be called a "yogurt" for the soil. In one year a horse can produce, on average, 12 cubic yards of manure. After you add the balanced carbon to this manure, you could have roughly 30 yards of compost on hand. This adds up to 30 yards of free fertility for your hungry soil. Add to that the wonderful relationship you will develop with your neighbors after gathering their manure, and you have a win-win situation.

**Nevada County Recycles see these animal manures as such a valuable asset that we are willing to visit your place free of charge to you.**

We see this current waste as a source of gold. However, because composting these manures can be a bit tricky, we have an expert to teach you how to make compost properly.

**So give your soil a treat and contact us for these free and professional consultations. Contact Lynne Cody, of Nevada County Recycles at 265-7119.**

Aside from a site visit to your place, Nevada County Recycles also offers composting classes and seminars from staff and Master Gardener volunteers from UCCE Nevada County.

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