



The Worm Farmer's Handbook

Mid- to Large-Scale Vermicomposting
for Farms, Businesses, Municipalities,
Schools, and Institutions

Rhonda Sherman

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Full-color photographs and illustrations throughout

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People from all walks of life are raising earthworms. Some begin vermicomposting as a hobby and scale up, whereas others have the intention right from the start to create a profit-making business. They may be farmers, community garden volunteers, entrepreneurs, landscapers, greenhouse growers, or staff at establishments that generate food waste.

Yet despite the rising interest, the overwhelming majority of books and resources on vermiculture are geared toward small-scale setups. To correct this, Extension Specialist Rhonda Sherman, director of the Compost Learning Lab at NC State and one of the leading experts worldwide on vermicomposting, set out to create the first authoritative how-to guide detailing the ins and outs of vermicomposting beyond the backyard worm bin. This book will be an essential resource for mid- to large-scale operations who may be looking to:

- Replace chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides with a natural product
- Increase crop yields
- Manage organic wastes in an environmentally-sustainable manner
- Diversify operations and develop an alternative income source
- Create a unique product that sells for a very high price
- And much more

From livestock farms and restaurants to colleges, military bases, and prisons, Sherman details why and how commercial-scale vermicomposting is a fast-growing, sustainable solution for organic waste management. *The Worm Farmer's Handbook* digs deep to demystify the science and logistics of the fascinating process that is vermicomposting.



Rhonda Sherman is the director of the Compost Learning Lab at North Carolina State University and one of the leading experts worldwide on vermicomposting. Rhonda travels extensively to present workshops and to consult with farmers, businesses, and institutions on the development and management of vermicomposting systems. She organizes the highly successful annual NC State Vermiculture Conference, which for nineteen years has drawn participants from across the United States and around the globe. She is a co-editor of *Vermiculture Technology* and has written extensively about composting and vermicomposting in her role with North Carolina State University.

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