



# Fermilab's Leaf Composting Program

November 15, 2012

DOE SAN Call

# The Program

- 2000 tillable acres of corn and soybean fields leased to a local farmer
  - Agreement provision to accept and spread leaves from 8 local communities
  - Plan reviewed and approved annually
- Averaged between 15,000 and 20,000 cubic yards per year for the past 9 years
- Fits into the goals of our land stewardship mission

# Savings

- Saves local communities from having to pay more for longer distance hauling
  - Fuel, time, and GHG savings
- Revenue opportunity for the farmer because of higher crop yield
- Fosters good will with local communities

# Environmental Benefits

- GHG savings from shorter hauling distances
- Helps our soil conditions
  - Organic fertilizer like compost in your garden, adds nutrients
  - Decomposed leaves add carbon to the soil, which loosens the soil, allowing roots to grow more easily
  - Carbon/organics increases the soil's ability to absorb water and reduce evaporation
  - Crop yields increase because of richer soil



- ✓ Towns save money
- ✓ Farmer makes money
- ✓ Soil is richer