
New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/11 20:29

Howdy, All!

Thought this might be a good place for us newbies to keep track of how our new setups are getting along and to share some "whodathunkit" :ohmy: ideas, and invite the more experienced (old-timers) in to fix us before we do something drastic and detrimental.:S

Background: started my WF roundabout the end of Nov, with a sorry batch (supposed to be 1 lb) of EF. Seller made it right and I got a "real" lb the next week. Using coir/finished hot compost/shredded office paper for bedding. Feeding kitchen slurry in trenches.

That said, I started posting this line of questioning in the "lack of castings" topic, but think this'd be more on track:

Thanx, redhen!

Based on your info, I think I'll keep feeding in the first bin, since they've still got a lot of work to do with the bedding. Set a new chow trench 2 days ago; if my li'l fellas had 'em, I'd consider them "two-feet knee-deep" into it :cheer:

I did, however, prep and set a new tray with just bedding. I wood-blocked the corners of the lower tray to ensure airflow and minimal contact - thought it might keep their micro-climate a little more stable and enable some of the various and sundry other beneficials to move on up. Surprise, surprise :laugh: when I checked 'em today there were at least a dozen of the li'l fellas hanging out the bottom of the top tray! Thinking it's a good thing that they're comfortable enough to move around in their new home, since moisture / temp / ph in the lower tray appear to be right...

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/01/11 22:07

Gary..Sounds like things are going well.

Thanks for starting this post, as I think shared information helps everyone.

Please keep us updatedB)

Re:New bin status

Posted by Bob Ingram - 2006/01/12 05:32

Gary, I, too think this is a very beneficial thread you've started. For someone with just a few months experience you have a good handle on vermicomposting. It amazes me how many home worm bins are bought and used in this country; a lot of good folks giving a helping hand to Mother Earth! Seeya, Bob

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/12 13:21

Thanks, Folks! Great to get some "protected species" blessings for this topic ;) .

Goin' with it -

After reading some of the posts re. anaerobic conditions, and me feeding slurry in trenches, I was worried about that too. I wanted to share a technique I've been using.

I've used a nifty little hand-tool called the Garden Claw in our veggie and flower gardens for years to loosen and aerate surface soil. The 3 pointed tines are about 3in long, set in a circle and angled from handle to tip so that a simple turn of the wrist gently opens and lifts whatever it is stuck into.

Every couple of days I just stick the tines in the middle of my slurry trench and slowly turn the claw about 90 degrees. Voila - aeration and wormie check with minimal disturbance. For those of you with big outdoor bins, it also comes in a long-handled (stand-up) model with 4 longer tines (great for weeding too).

No, I don't work for 'em :P , just really like the tool.

Hope this helps somebody.

Gary

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/15 22:53

Reckon this falls into the "somebody stop me" category here; I been thinkin':blink:

Issue: 5 WF trays (yeah, I bought the whole shebang :P), only one of which is considered the "working tray". Plenty mo' kitchen scraps (HH6's ham-keeper is full in the fridge :pinch: , and our little compost crock is filling fast). No compost setup outside (got buckets, though). Wormies are crankin' out both babies and castings :woohoo: !

Discussion: If other WF trays were separated by an inch or two with wood corner blocks and bedded / populated / fed / monitored appropriately, these should become additional working trays. Keep 1 tray in reserve for the ultimate working tray (wormie roundup / casting harvest time), after sequentially withholding chow and shortening / removing blocks from lower trays, lowest being first established working tray. Understand upward migration would take longer, but my raised veggie beds will benefit from any stragglers. Process lower trays, saving about a quarter tray of bedding (with resident worms / cocoons) to establish new working trays.

Pros: More waste processed, more fat happy wormies to populate soon-to-be-built outdoor bin, more castings to enhance veggie and flower gardens, HH6 not beating me about the head and shoulders every time she inadvertently opens her ham-keeper :sick:

Cons: Umm.....

What am I not seeing here, folks?

Thanx,
Gary

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/01/16 11:35

You just keep on thinking Gary.B) I think what you are doing sounds like a fun experiment with a manufactured system. Your plan for an outdoor bin could in fact be started earlier, with extra food scraps you have collected, being buried at the site now. Food scraps, piling up, will kill any enthusiasm others might otherwise have had for your project.. quickly. I have many in-ground bins, (one impromptu) that handle overflow. I call the impromptu one my "Field of Dreams", (with the theme of "build it and they will come"). All it is, is an out-of-the-way spot out back, that I put food scraps on the ground (never dug anything), and covered with about 3' of leaves. Whenever I have overflow I just pull the leaves back, toss the food in, and re-cover. It is now full of worms..:P

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/22 02:04

Thanx for the "goferit", Susan. I did.

Here's the latest, y'all:

Setup:
Bedded 3 new WF trays last week. Set .5" x 4.75" wood corner blocks in each. Upper tray bottoms sit on blocks .25" inside lower trays; ventilation along all sides. Bedding about 1" from upper tray. Made one the "base/bottom" tray - no added chow, no added moisture. Absorbs leachate, retains collection-tray divers (so far ;)). Next tray is established (1.5 months, 1.5# EF), also corner-blocked. Those li'l fellers are crankin' :woohoo: ! Set slurry trenches in 2 new (upper) trays 2 days before new wormies arrived.

Status:
2# EF (nice fat bed-run mix) split between 2 upper trays yesterday afternoon. Shipped kinda dry, in peat - they loved the spray bottle :P . No bail-outs, and both new tray herds have already hit the trenches.

Lessons learned:

1. EF will migrate up and down from established tray into new trays with no added chow even if tray/bedding contact is minimal/tenuous and established tray conditions are "optimum" iaw all I've learned so far. 4 layers of newspaper lining the bottom of a tray mean nothing to them :blink: .

2. Always check tray bottom for danglers before you set it on the floor :silly: .

2.a. Keep top tray empty, set on floor first, then alternate corner support for lower trays when checking / feeding.

2.b. Put danglers that drop into the top tray (see 2.a.) back into a working tray :laugh:

3. Red LED strap-on "headlight" (Energizer @ Walmart sporting goods) is great for observing without disturbing the li'l fellas (also good for reading in bed when HH6 is trying to sleep :whistle:).

Susan - I have enough 5gal covered buckets to keep the overflow outside for now, until I get off these danged crutches and can hobble around well enough to get & set some cinderblocks. Lotsa room out back to just dump it, but I want to have a bin set before I start outside. Besides, I just got 2 new pounds of potential - gonna let it build some inside first B).

Y'all have fun, whatever you're doing!
Gary

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/01/22 12:20

gnosnhoj..Sounds like you and your worms are having a big time..:P

I don't know if you have seen my cinderblock bins but if you look through the posts for one titled "In-ground bins", It will have a link to see pictures of the ones I built.

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/22 17:49

Yep, Susan - I did see your bins. Thanx for posting pics. They gave me the basic plan for what I'm gonna build. Have you (or anybody else...) had any problems with wasps or yellow-jackets or such setting up house under your lids or in your block cavities? If so, how did you deal with 'em?

Thinking I'll divide the bin by halves or quarters and introduce some ENC's into a portion of it. Expect I'll get some migration, but with solid dividers and the slight difference in micro-climates I think I can keep that minimal. A little slice of wormie heaven for all.

Bob - I'll probably be talking to you when I'm ready for my ENC's :cheer: .

I need to do a little grading to level the bin site first, but my mini-tractor blade will make short work of that.

If the weather doesn't hurt my feelings too bad :(I intend to get the blocks set within the next month and build / mount the lid. HH6 got me a Skil Xshop for Xmas, bless her heart, and I wanna play :P !

Re:New bin status

Posted by Bob Ingram - 2006/01/22 18:32

Thanks Gary, that'd be good...you will have some migration, however, but the two species seem to instigate one another for growth and reproduction...you might be surprised how large your red worms will gwt...don't misunderstand, they don't inter breed, but do compete in a positive manner....Seeya, Bob

Re:New bin status

Posted by Kyle - 2006/01/22 21:01

Good luck Gary. I love worming. I am still learning.

Keep us posted. I am just getting back into worming.

Waiting for 2 pounds of pure wonder lol.

Kyle

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/23 21:10

Competition can be a good thing, Bob ;) !

If they did interbreed, I wonder what we'd end up with; Euroamerican Night Wigglers...Red Euro Night Brandlings...Night Wiggling Euro Jumping Crawlers...??? :silly:

Thanks, Kyle - you too! This is my first go'round, and with a new homestead to landscape and plant I'll be needing all the castings I can get generated.

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/24 01:10

Howdy, Y'all!

Just an update on the 'multiple working tray' experiment...and a question at the end.

Jeez, I got a lot of fat happy worms :woohoo: can you say exponential reproduction? I knew that you could :P !

Used my garden claw to check the 2 new trays for the first time - got worried on the first turn 'cause I only saw a few...then I hit the chow trench :cheer: . The newbies appear to be doing very well. Same deal in the next lower tray. I set a new slurry trench for each and turned one 90 degrees so the trenches aren't on top of each other.

The original working tray is getting heavier and more dense daily, with mostly adults in it (thanx, Susan, for talking me out of shifting focus from that one :blush:). Still paper and chow readily identified, so I'm leaving them to work it.

Here's my question...please be patient...:lol:

Issue: Bedding surface in wood-blocked trays dries out pretty quick due to enhanced airflow, wicking moisture from below surface. Requires close monitoring and water misting.

Discussion: Single or double layer of newspaper on bedding surface might help retain bed moisture, or wick even more out. Closer proximity of paper to upper bed may allow a more stable humidity balance, but reduces airflow to bed.

So - anybody "been there, done that" or have some recommendations...please?

Thanx

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/01/24 11:02

Do you have any burlap available? This type of material will hold moisture and allow airflow. Black plastic could also be laid over the bedding...OR..you could just plan on getting a garden mister and add that to your to-do list every other day or so.

About yellow jackets..I have none of them in or around my block bins. They have covers. My hole in the ground (with food only covered by leaves) is another story, especially if I put something sweet in there, like watermelon. The food is more exposed and the yellow jackets are foraging there. They do not cause me any harm, or even try to, so I let them be. Now if I have discovered a ground nest, and they are the least disturbed, they will come after me and cause a lot of pain. I do not let these nests exist.

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/24 16:19

No burlap, but I imagine that'd be great. I've been using a spray-bottle since I started the WF. I have some weed-block fabric, but decided to try plain corrugated cardboard first, mostly for ease of use, and because it was there. ;).

I cut 12" squares - leaves about 1/2" uncovered on each side - and poked about 60 holes with a x-tip screwdriver for surface airflow. Misted each tray to 80% (+/-) moisture, placed cardboard and soaked it some to avoid excessive wicking. I'll check with my moisture meter for the next few days...not like I'm not gonna check 'em anyway :P !
Not so worried about YJs here, but I have a lot of wasps that have really enjoyed homesteading on the undersides of my deck railings and such - just don't want to have to be wary every time I open my outdoor bin this summer :unsure: .
Thought I might fill the block cavities with packing peanuts; insulation + "starve the landfill" + take up nesting space...B)

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Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/25 23:14

Update - if any fellow-newbies are following this topic...:unsure:, be careful with feeding then topping trays with cardboard like I did - my middle tray feed trench got up to almost 90df since I set it round-about noon two days ago. House ambient = 68df. Wormies were still decisively engaged in the new stuff, but I turned it to aerate and swapped middle for top tray because top tray temp was more stable.
On the flip-side, the cardboard bedding covers seem to have alleviated the surface drying issue, as EF and mites are all over the surface of all 3 active trays now.

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Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/01/26 09:08

gnosnhoj..When you make a slurry or grind up produce and bury, decomposition is speeded up and it will heat your bin up quickly. In a plastic bin situation your worms will have little place to go to get away from that heat, but they will try or die. This would not be a problem in an in-ground bin, as they worms could find a cooler location and wait for the heat to die down, then move back into it.

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Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/01/27 22:53

Yep, understand decomp temp increases. What surprised me was that it was so pronounced that I noticed it with my fingers/palm before I even touched the cardboard cover :ohmy: . Hadn't ID'd much diff at all with any of the other chow trenches I've set. Temp probe 2" from trench read 5df less, 4" (middle of tray) was 10df less, and side opposite trench was house ambient...li'l fellas got room to get comfy ;).

Three thoughts, based on the only changed conditions I can think of:

1. Peat bedding this batch came with added to decomp heat.
2. New cardboard cover, although ventilated, retained heat that had dissipated from previous chow trenches.
3. Hotter decomp going on in this trench due to possibly fresher raw OM (carrot / potato peelings) in slurry.

Fix:

1. Remove cardboard, monitor moisture regularly, let wormies rove at will between working bins via loose shredded paper between bedding & bin bottoms. Should still maintain good moisture / airflow between bins.

Whatcha'll think?

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Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/02/01 23:00

OK, folks - updates, from 2 top WF trays (newest and fairly identical) to bottom (oldest)...

Top tray: about 0.5# of fat happy wormies, all ages & cocoons, + mites, actively involved in 2 chow trenches, one mostly history. Temp variables <5df across the tray. Wet = 70-80%. Set a shorter, shallower trench with more cooked (less raw), somewhat dryer slurry.

Middle tray: apparently THE place to be :woohoo: ! Li'l fellas were dancin' in the streets :silly: !

At least >2#, with demographics and environment same as top tray. Added another chow trench as above.

Bottom (original) tray: say it with me..."There's no place like home..." :laugh: . Full compliment of all ages, creeds, etc...>1.5#. Think I saw a couple Nascar caps down there...:P , and a full contingent of misc other beneficials; lots'o pot worms - only tray in which they're obvious. Still a fair bit of identifiable chow & bedding. Haven't fed this tray for almost 2 weeks now.

I switched top & middle trays this eve, just to see if the party would shift, all things bedding & chow-wise still being equal, rotating new trenches 90deg. Ain't gonna mess with the bottom tray - thinking that might end up in my new outdoor bin complete since the gang's all there ;) !

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/02/02 08:22

Gary..sounds like you may just be reaching the legal limits of having fun with dirt and worms:P

Re:New bin status

Posted by Bob Ingram - 2006/02/02 14:19

Oh yeeeeeaaahh...Susan, he's havin WAAY too much fun...Seeya, Bob

Re:New bin status

Posted by Joe1234 - 2006/02/02 17:32

What is a chow trinch? and how is it made? Thank you Joe

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/02/02 19:38

Hi, Joe - this is how I've been feeding my li'l fellas:

WF is square, so I've been rotating feedings around the sides. I use a little garden fork to move bedding into the middle of the tray, starting about an inch from the side. I dig a trench about 2" deep and 3-4" wide the length of the side. Line with a handful or two of shredded paper, then spoon slurry on the paper, spreading as I go so it doesn't glob up too bad. Then I fork the moved bedding back over it, just enough to cover, as I've discovered that it can get right warm if covered too deeply.

This technique seems to allow quick breakdown and gives the wormies plenty of surface area to dig into.

Hope this helps ya!

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/02/02 20:36

Susan, Bob...

"Too much fun' - what's that mean?

It's like too much money; there's no such thing

It's like a girl too pretty with too much class

Being too lucky, a car too fast

No matter what they say I've done

Well I ain't never had too much fun!"

(Daryle Singletary) :woohoo: !

That said :cheer: , I just really like getting into something, learning much and building a knowledge base from what has gone before, then discovering new / different things on my own to use & share as I progress.
I believe no day is wasted if I learn one new thing - doesn't have to be a biggie, just new. So far, so good, and y'all are helping a lot! ;)

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/02/16 01:14

Well, Howdy, All :unsure:

I was hoping this topic would be a share & share alike kinda thing, but it looks like it has turned into a gnosnhojblog (say that 10 times fast, then go check your wormies if you can still stand up :silly:)

I reckon it works for y'all, considering the # of views, so...otay.

Update:

Leave your dang worms alone! Scroll up or down :unsure: and see all the fun I've put mine through. Feed 'em and leave 'em be, for about a week at a time. I checked my herd this eve for the first time in almost :huh: a week: everybody everywhere, doing just dandy, and more spread out through chow & bedding. Daytona500 banners all over :woohoo: ! The original tray is getting right thick! I put it on top hoping to expedite processing - that upward migration thing - we'll see...lotsa fatsos up there already :P !

Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/21 11:30

a bag of cement is cheep enough fill with the package material cap with cement for absoult sealing

Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/21 11:56

a chow trinch is a trench made with a hair lip:P

a deperssion I would guess along one side if the worm bin into which the food is placed

Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/22 07:45

hi I thought i would post a picture of my indoor bins and one of my outdoor future worm emporium

http://www.worndigest.org/components/com_simpleboard/uploaded/images/insidefarm.JPG

http://www.worndigest.org/components/com_simpleboard/uploaded/images/7c0ece978a5596ac335d5f48db78130a.JPG

Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/22 08:28

regarding your mite problem i had them also . i also have a bunch of lady bugs in trying to find a way to rid ourselves of the ladysi found that they like mites & afids. after addind a half dozento each bin the nats disapeared and the ladys are bright and shiney

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/02/22 22:35

Dang, Jerry - looks like you're getting ready to do some serious wormin' :ohmy: ! I can see you've got your summer planned...:laugh: .
Have you noticed any light problems with your plastic bins being see-through?

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Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/23 05:46

light problems? no they tend to stay central in the bin. the room is my computer /work room normally pretty dimly lit. but your right they stay mostly up under the darker lid I've been thinking of painting the exterior to keep out the light

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Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/02/23 10:07

I was going to mention the light also. I think you might have much better success if those bins were not see-thru. The worms work much better in the dark and your population would increase if they could spread out more, instead of being forced to go to the center to get away from that light. (Even if it is dim).

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Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/23 14:23

hello all a also just started my bins come summer they all go out side into my raised garden area
http://www.wormdigest.org/components/com_simpleboard/uploaded/images/0a714f7fd4d250361ea057dbfac53dd0.JPG

currently ther are living three plastic file storage bin ,modified wih vents covered with fly screen:pinch:
http://www.wormdigest.org/components/com_simpleboard/uploaded/images/11a7163a1124bc05742baca9fb69f846.jpg

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Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/23 14:33

gary how or should i say are the 5 gal pails modified ? and if so how?
http://www.wormdigest.org/components/com_simpleboard/uploaded/images/dda5efd270a98f965d25156cce2d2206.JPG

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Re:New bin status

Posted by gardenfanatic - 2006/02/23 20:58

Gary,
What exactly is in your "kitchen slurry" that you're putting in trenches?

Deanna

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Re:New bin status

Posted by Maureen - 2006/02/23 21:41

Hi Jerry,

Those are cool pictures of your worm bins! Did you say that they are newly started to get ready for putting in the outdoor raised bins? Did you also say you will have some that are bottomless- that go right into the ground? What part of the States are you in? Just wondering about the next winter....

Maureen:silly:

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Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/02/23 22:04

gary how or should i say are the 5 gal pails modified ? and if so how?

Hi, Jerry - 'fraid I wasn't in the bit about the 5gal pails, but I'd imagine they'd be modified much the same as your standard plastic bins. Thinking about the depth v diameter, though, if I were inclined to build a few :whistle: , I might do like some hot composters do and sink a vertical perforated pvc tube down the center for aeration, maybe all the way up through the lid. I'd probably use smaller pipe and smaller holes though, and cap with screen :P .

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Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/02/23 22:24

Gary, What exactly is in your "kitchen slurry" that you're putting in trenches?

Deanna - it's just the standard household leavings (everything from coffee grounds to peelings to stale crackers to leftover veggies). It's slurry only because I leave it sit in my compost crock / covered bucket (or fridge :blush:) long enough to turn to mush :blink: . I just lean back, hold my breath a bit :sick: and stir before I spoon it in. I do nuke dense stuff like tater peels, old cauliflower etc. tender before I add those to the 'future wormie-chow' container. I think 'future wormie-chow' is getting to be kinda like a yeast culture that gets passed down through generations...I've never totally emptied it yet...:whistle: .

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Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/02/23 22:37

...also just started my bins come summer they all go out side into my raised garden area...

Jerry - are you planning on using those nifty outdoor bins as garden beds or worm bins?

If using as garden beds, there are very few bin-friendly composting worms that'll make a go of that environment, from what I've learned.

I don't recall what kind of worms you're raising, but I'm pretty sure EF, at least, won't do well in a garden without continued feeding...and that opens up a whole 'nother can o' worms :ohmy: .

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Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/02/24 02:23

n1hat wrote:

regarding your mite problem i had them also

Don't really consider the mites a problem, as they're breaking down the OM too. My intent is to produce vermicompost quickly (I know, y'all... vc / quickly...:unsure:) and increase my biomass at the same time - it balances.

Good idea with the LB intro, though, if you were overrun!

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Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/24 07:01

in reply to where I live I'm in west central Vt. Rutland county. To answer the other question I had not thought about continus feeding so i guess this year it will be only two bins for worms aseven bins for raised garden. All the bins are bottomless and the female bins will be topless also.

Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/24 17:12

see thru bins? yup i can see ok .:evil: i am thing of spraying them with paint:dry:

Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/02/26 12:16

Help!apparently i did the typical beginner mistake fed too much too soon still smells ok and is moist lots of eggs visible.do I have to do any thing other than leave them alone?...:blink:

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/02/26 19:14

If those bins are not kept dark, the worms will not be working on that food as well.

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/03/02 22:07

Howdy, All!

Just another update to keep this thang rollin' :cheer: :

All 3 'working' trays are absolutely crankin' :woohoo: ! Wormies are moving freely between 'em as they see fit, but it appears that the population in each is now fairly equal (plus or minus, give or take :unsure:). Dang trays are getting heavy :blink: !

I have been feeding all 3 regularly hoping to have enough li'l fellas to stock my outdoor bin and keep the WF running - thinkin' I'll be OK :P .

I did figure something out yesterday (have I smacked myself in the head lately :blush: ?); set new chow trenches Tuesday eve, and checked for temp increases last night...yepper, they'd got up around 90df again in the trenches :pinch: . Wormies still all through it, and didn't see any deaders, but right about that time, my ice-maker dumped another load into the freezer tray...well, duh :laugh: ! So I aerated the trenches a bit and spread 12 - 18 ice cubes over the top of each tray; worked very well B) . Checked temps before work today, and all were again stable. I'll check again this eve to see if they've stayed that way.

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/03/02 22:51

I think you have not have your bins in summer months..right? Well, that ice cube trick is a good one, only I put it in ziplock bags, so as not to wet the system down too much.

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/03/03 00:14

I think you have not have your bins in summer months..right? Well, that ice cube trick is a good one, only I put it in ziplock bags, so as not to wet the system down too much.

Hi, Susan - right, just got started in Nov. Imagine it can get much harder to regulate bins outside in summer - I've read your other posts on that subject ;) .
I'm keeping my WF in the kitchen all year, though, and figure since the trays are open-bottomed, any 'excess' moisture will drip through or evaporate before it causes any wormie-scuba issues. The dry tray I have below my working trays / above the collection tray is still way dry, so I'm thinking the working trays are not getting too wet. Ain't seen any li'l wormie snorkels in there yet :silly:

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/03/03 23:18

Checked temps before work today, and all were again stable. I'll check again this eve to see if they've stayed that way. Just so y'all know, I did have to re-ice yesterday, though not so big of a temp spike, and the li'l fellas were still all over it. Just checked temps, and they're all stable again...castings all over the new shredded paper toppings I put on yesterday :woohoo: !

I did finally get some drippage, just a bit, into my bottom 'dry' tray. Switched the bottom working tray back to the top to let any more drips run through the other 2 working trays.

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/03/04 12:47

Gary..Those trays can go more anaerobic if they get too wet, as they pack down easier.

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/03/04 20:50

Those trays can go more anaerobic if they get too wet, as they pack down easier.
Yes'm - I'm checking 'em daily and aerating if needed.
They've been good since the last icing :P .

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/03/11 00:25

Howdy :) !

Fed 2 of 3 trays last night (1 still had a bit of trench to get through). No heating issues this eve, and the li'l fellas were all over the new trenches - snap/crackle/pop is too cool :woohoo: !

Only change that I can ID ref. heating or lack thereof was that I set the WF plastic lid (menu w/knob) cross-corner over the top (empty) tray v flat inside it.

I've been rotating the trays top/middle/bottom every few days the last couple of weeks based on temp varients and moisture content, paying more attention to temp v wet. The warmer tray goes up top and gets a good misting, which drains down through the other two.

Observation: the bottom tray appears to be where the majority hangs out, at least on the surface. I've been adding shredded paper toppings for a few weeks iot maintain migration routes between trays, and fresh castings (not dropped from upper tray) and active wormies seem to be much more obvious on the bottom tray surface than the other 2.

Not regulated and scientific, I know, but this is what I'm seeing. Don't consider it an issue, either, as they're all hitting the trenches regardless of which tray they're in at the time.

Bedding in all 3 working trays is for all I & P done, besides the paper I line the current chow trench with and the topping. I'm just fargin' amazed B) ! If I were a 'mater or 'cuke sprout I'd be droolin' :woohoo: !

KY temps appear to have moderated enough for me to start planning my outward-bound transplant in the next week or

two...their new home is set & ready :cheer: .

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/03/11 22:10

Gary.. Do you already have food going in the outdoor bin? I did this and had a big time seeing who moved in..especially the wild worms.

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/03/12 01:42

.. Do you already have food going in the outdoor bin?

Yes'm - about 4gal of slurry last week + about half a loaf of fuzzy sliced bread, old cornbread, veggie peels etc this week. Haven't dug in to check on the natives, but I will before the big move.

I need to work on the moisture level tomorrow - still a bit dry I think. Planning on moving 'em out next weekend B) .

Built my harvest screen today; 16x24" frame - fits an old cat litter tray I'll use to weigh & move the li'l fellas to their new digs.

Is nervous normal for this kind of move :unsure: ? They've done great in my WF, even with all my pokin' & tweakin', and now I'm gonna pitch most of 'em outside...:blink: . Separation anxiety, I reckon :huh: .

Re:New bin status

Posted by redhen - 2006/03/12 12:30

At least, if you still have some in the WF, you won't get full blown empty nest syndrome:P

Re:New bin status

Posted by n1hat - 2006/03/12 17:49

Yes Gary:

During daylight hours the worms avoid the side of the bins but apparently during darkness they crawl all over cause there?s worm tracks on them walls come daylight the sides are full of mud:blush:

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/03/14 21:42

Planning on moving 'em out next weekend.

...but as is often the case with WKY spring, the night temps have dipped again this week and the 10-day forecast ain't much better, so I reckon I'll hold off for a bit longer :(.

So...I went ahead and fed the li'l fellas again this eve...Holy Crap :ohmy: ! First time I've really stirred the trays up for most of 3 weeks :woohoo: ! It is definitely time to get a mess of these guys into bigger digs! I was amazed at the number of li'l pinkies as well as the masses of adults - I imagine I coulda grabbed 3 double-handfuls from each tray, and there is surely no dearth of cocoons :cheer: !

Added our 1gal crock-pot of slurry to the outdoor bin this weekend and watered well. Looks like it is doing fine, but didn't poke around much. I'll dig in a bit this weekend; check bedding temps and see if anybody's moved in.

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/03/22 00:11

I'll dig in a bit this weekend; check bedding temps and see if anybody's moved in.

Well, checked temps at least, and they were ambient (mid-50df). Didn't dig in, but covered exposed (way fuzzy) chow with another 3-4" layer of shredded paper/leaves and watered again. hoping the cover and water will kick it up a notch to get any hot bits through before I add the wormies.

KY spring weather ain't helping, not even a little bit: below freezing at night through next weekend, dangit :(. Deep breath, release slowly....:P .

On the upside, though, since the outdoor transplant isn't happening this week at least, I got to (had to?) set new chow trenches inside. Since last feed a week ago, all recent trenches have sunk more than an inch - that's a bit, since I spread my slurry to about a 0.5" layer and the bedding is less than 4.5" deep. Li'l fellas are hongry :woohoo: ! I've been thinking one day soon I'll pull that lid and hear "Feed me, Seymour" :silly: !

No heat issues lately, but did find some little bitty white maggots deep in the bedding this eve - hoping they're BSF larvae and that I can get 'em outside before they mature and start wandering to pupate :whistle: Don't reckon HH6 would like that much in the kitchen.

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/04/03 21:42

Howdy, All :cheer: !

Finally moved 2 of my 3 working trays to my outdoor bin this weekend :woohoo: !

http://www.snapfish.com/thumbnailshare/AlbumID=36822746/a=3794523_3794523/t_=3794523

I also prepped & set a new tray inside, mostly IAW the WF instructions :P . Now I reckon I'll see if this upward migration thang works, eh?! :lol:

Re:New bin status

Posted by gnosnhoj - 2006/05/12 00:34

OK, so maybe "new" new bin status, since I've moved a bunch of the herd outside ;) .

Anyway, thought I'd continue this topic since all previous experiences can be accessed by scrolling or clicking to previous pages.

I have been finding fat healthy worms in the little bit of leachate in my WF collection tray, more in the last couple of weeks. Where they got the scuba equipment, I won't even venture to guess :blink: .

Think they were displaced because the 'dry tray' I have below my working trays had settled and they couldn't get back up to where they orta be.

I pulled the corner blocks from the dry tray and set the working trays directly on it a few days ago. No more scuba-wormies :woohoo: !

These guys are really liking their environment - I'm planning to harvest 1 of 2 working trays again this weekend to integrate into my outdoor bin...so much for the "WF by instructions" experiment :whistle: .