



Duncan Family Farms

Kathleen and Arnott Duncan have been farming Duncan Family Farms in Arizona for 35 years. As a way to combine Kathleen's passion of education and Arnott's love of farming, the Duncan's opened their farm up to the public to help them learn about farming and where their food comes from. They incorporated many festivals bringing 30,000-50,000 people to the farm. After Sept 11th security around the air force base and residential encroachment led to redoing take off zones. Farm gatherings had to be cancelled because the farm is now a designated crash zone.

Although they can no longer bring the community to the farm, they continue to work each day to have a successful and sustainable farm. They are pretty good at it too! In fact they have duplicated their Arizona farm operation in California, Oregon and even New York. They have perfected their farming method and each farm, no matter which state it is in, look pretty similar. Each state even has its own compost operation.

Duncan Family Farms compost operation recycles over 20,000 tons of green waste. The landscape trimming such as grass, trees, and bushes are collected from landscape companies and city green waste as part of Duncan's compost operation. Manure from dairy farms is also added to produce over 80,000 tons of compost. That compost is then spread on their farm fields to help keep their soil healthy. The compost piles are mixed with chicken pellets from Hickman's Family Farm and other nutrients prior to going into the file. Why? This means Duncan's only have to pass through their field one time in the quest for healthy soil!