HOW TO CONSTRUCT

THE HUMANURE HACIENDA

1. Dig 24" deep holes, drop in (8) 4x4 locust (or other suitable) posts, back fill with soil mixed with concrete. Posts are about 5' (1.6 meters) apart. Leave four center posts high. Cut four outer posts to a height of about 4'.

2. Plumb and brace posts. Nail 4x4 header across higher center posts.

3. Screw 1" thick, rough sawn black locust (or other suitable) lumber to posts as shown. Leave small gap between boards and about 2" between bottom board and ground.

4. Cut rafters and install in a simple gable roof design. All the lumber for the roof can be recycled. The posts and side walls should be rot resistant lumber, but not lumber treated with toxic chemicals. It would be better to use scrap lumber for the sidewalls and replace it periodically than to use toxic lumber. The roofed center section will hold cover materials and will keep them dry, protected and unfrozen. The roof will also collect rainwater, which should be used to clean compost buckets when not frozen.
5. Nail sheathing boards to roof rafters. Make sure rafter tails have plumb cuts so a fascia board can be attached.

6. Install fascia boards, then the finished roofing. Recycled slate makes an excellent roofing material.

7. Install the rain spouting. Install a rain barrel adjacent to the Hacienda. A recycled oak wine barrel is an excellent rain water collector. Remember that you will have to drain the barrel during freezing weather.

The author's Humanure Hacienda, shown at right, is expected to last a lifetime. The rainwater system makes cleaning compost buckets very convenient spring, summer and fall. The center roof also keeps bales of hay and straw dry and available for use throughout the winter.