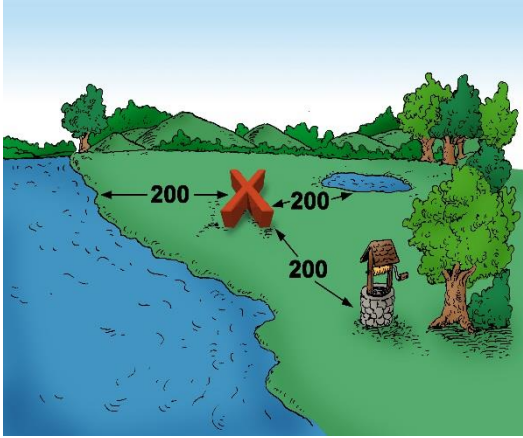


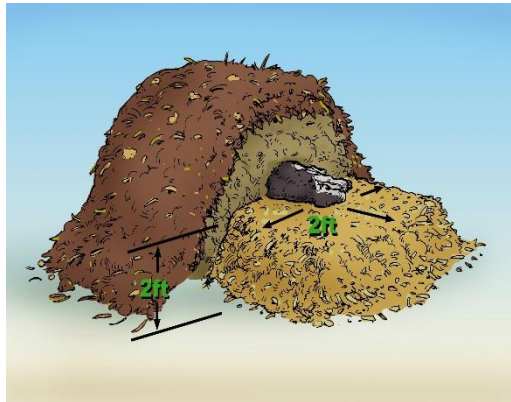
Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality

Key Points of Static Pile Carcass Composting



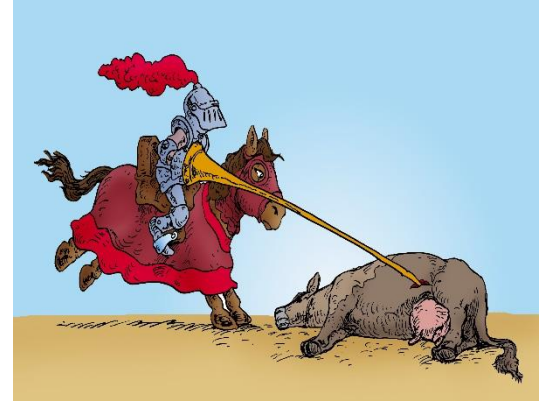
Select Site

1. Select site that is well drained, at least 200 feet from water courses, sinkholes, seasonal seeps, or other landscape features that indicate the area is hydrologically sensitive.



Prepare Base

2. Lay 24-inch bed of coarse, absorbent organic material 2" or less in size, but also containing some sizeable pieces 4-6 inches long. Utility and municipal wood chips work best. Ensure the base is large enough to allow for 2-foot clearance around the carcass.



Place Animal & Lance Rumen

3. Lay animal in the center of the bed. Lance the rumen to avoid bloating and possible explosion. Explosive release of gases can result in odor problems and it will blow the cover material off the composting carcass.



Cover

4. Cover the carcass with 24 inches of the same bulky, absorbent organic material used for the base. Alternatively, carcass can be covered with 12 inches of old silage, dry stall bedding and/or semi-solid manure (all of which may expedite the process) AND 12 inches of the base material over that.

Suitable Carbon Sources include:

- Wood chips 2" or less in size
- Yard trimmings and brush trimmings 2" or less in size
- Shavings (with larger pieces mixed in)
- Chopped hay/straw
- Chopped corn stover
- Oat/Sunflower hulls



Let Sit 4 to 6 Months

6. Let sit for 4-6 months, then check to see if carcass is fully degraded.

Reuse the Composted Material

7. Reuse the composted material for another carcass compost pile, or remove large bones and land apply.

Cleanliness

8. Site cleanliness is the most important aspect of composting, it deters scavengers, and helps control odors and keeps good neighbor relations.

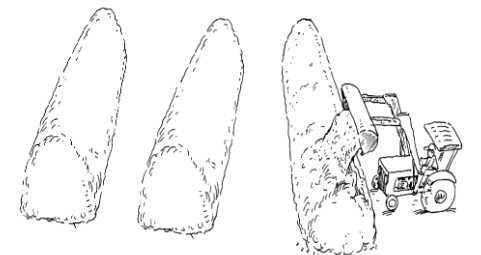


Building pile in Washington County, NY in 5° F temperatures



Layer Young Animals

5. For young animals, layer mortalities with a minimum of 1 to 2 feet of carbon material between layers.



Turning Note

Carcass and butcher residual piles should not be turned early in the process unless there are no neighbors that would be affected. Odor is a big issue most of the time. After 3 to 4 months, turning is an option and will speed the curing process.



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Source: "Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality and Butcher Waste" fact sheet