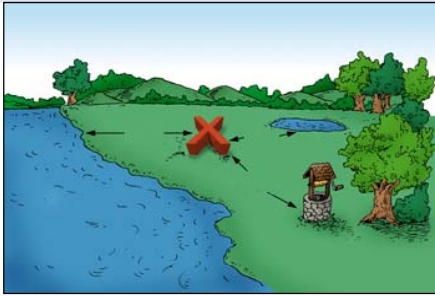


Composting Mortality

DEER → COWS → **How To** ← HORSES ← CHICKENS

birds • goats • whales • butcher waste • pigs • fish



Keep compost piles a safe distance from homes, businesses and watercourses.



Windrows should be 6'-8' high x 8'-12' wide x as long as you have the space.



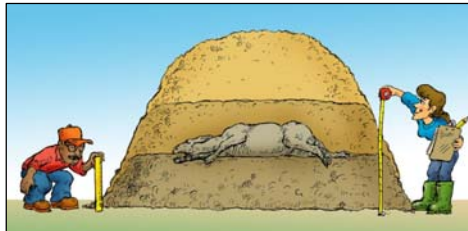
Static pile construction during a disease outbreak.

1. Select a site that is well drained, not subject to flooding, and at least 200 feet from homes, businesses, water courses, sinkholes, seasonal seeps or other landscape features that indicates the area is hydrologically sensitive.

2. Prepare base: Lay 24-inch bed of bulky, absorbent organic material; chips from tree chipping operations 2-inches or larger work well. Ensure the base is large enough to allow for a 2-foot clearance around the carcasses on all sides.

3. Building piles: Lay animal(s) in the center of the bed. Lance the stomach of large animals if the carcass is bloated. This will prevent a build-up of gases which could result in an explosion that will create odor problems and blow the cover material off the pile.

4. Layer animals under 150 pounds with a 12-inch layer of wood chips in between. This seems to create conditions where the carbon and nitrogen levels are in balance and provides the mass needed to reach thermophilic temperatures.



Make sure carcass is well covered to keep odors down, generate heat and keep vermin or other unwanted animals out of the pile.

5. Check temperatures to be sure the composting process is active.

6. Let pile sit for 4 to 6 months.

7. Reuse the composted material as a bed for additional carcass compost piles or spread on land used to grow feed for animals.

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

Benefits of Composting

- Can be done any time of year, even when the ground is frozen.
- Can be done with equipment already in place on most farms.
- All sizes of animals can be composted.
- Relatively low requirements for labor and management.
- Pathogen kill occurs in thermophilic composts; helps control bacterium, viruses and spore forming organisms in disease outbreaks.
- Egg waste and hatching waste can be composted.
- Paunch manure and other parts not accepted in rendering will compost.
- Placental membranes and other tissue can be composted.
- Relatively odor-free.
- Economical.



Don't drive on the base or the pile.

Moisture Management in Different Climates

Shape pile to accept or reduce moisture input.

1. Wet climates - Peaked piles allow the least input.
2. Dry climates - Flat topped windrows accept the moisture that fall on them.
3. Very dry climates - Add water to carbon source while building pile and trench windrow to allow moisture to collect and be absorbed.



Cover with 24-inches of chunky carbon source.



A Northern Right Whale composted at the Paleontological Research Institute, Ithaca, NY.

For more information about mortality composting go to: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/mortality.htm>

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