



Water Quality/Feedlots #6.07b • Revised July 2010

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency • 520 Lafayette Rd. N., St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 • www.pca.state.mn.us
651-296-6300 • 800-657-3864 • TTY 651-282-5332 or 800-657-3864 • Available in alternative formats

the pathogens. The temperature drop indicates the time to mix and move the compost. A minimum of two (2) heat cycles is required; and

- The finished compost must not contain visible pieces of soft tissue and must be handled, stored, and used according to all other applicable rules.

In addition, composting facilities must be:

- Built on an impervious, weight-bearing pad large enough for equipment to maneuver;
- Covered with a roof to prevent excessive moisture on the composting material; if sawdust or other water-repelling material is used as the bulking agent, a roof may not be necessary;
- Built of rot-resistant material strong enough to withstand the force exerted by equipment; and
- Large enough to handle each day's normal mortality through the endpoint of the composting, which consists of a minimum of two (2) heat cycles.

Incineration

Incinerators must be:

- Capable of producing emissions not to exceed 20 percent opacity;
- Fitted with an afterburner that maintains flue gases at 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 0.3 seconds; and
- Ash from the incinerator must be handled in such a manner as to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne.

It is recommended that the incinerator be large enough to handle each day's mortalities.

Rendering

Carcasses left at an off-site pickup point must be:

- Kept in an animal-proof, enclosed area;
- At least 200 yards from a neighbor's buildings;
- Picked up within 72 hours;
- If the enclosed area is refrigerated to less than 45 degrees Fahrenheit, the carcasses must be picked up within seven (7) days.

Alternative Methods

Alternative methods of mortality disposal including, but not limited to, pet food processing, fur farm consumption, lactic fermentation, extrusion, and experimental composting, require a permit from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. For more information on alternative methods of carcass disposal, contact the Board of Animal Health at (651) 296-2942.



Turkey compost shed

For More Information

Contact your county feedlot officer or MPCA staff at regional offices listed on front, or access the following Web pages:

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:
www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlots.html
- Minnesota Board of Animal Health:
<http://www.bah.state.mn.us/bah/carcass-disposal/>
- Minnesota Board of Animal Health Rules:
www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/1719/4000.html
- A link to a booklet titled [Composting Animal Mortalities](#) is on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Dead Animal Composting Web page at:
www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/conservation/practices/compostanimal.aspx.

Other U.S.:

- *On-Farm Composting Handbook*, Cornell University:
www.nraes.org/publications/nraes54.html
- Swine Composting Facility Design, Ohio State University:
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0713.html>
- Iowa State University, *Composting dead livestock: A new solution to an old problem*:
www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/SA8.pdf