

Composting Animal Mortality. (A05-brodie231426-Oral)

Authors:

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Abstract:

Composting mortality for disposal is cost effective, environmentally sound, biosecure and easy. Composting degrades mortality without odors or the attraction of flies or scavengers. Mortality is not placed in the soil where ground water could be contaminated. The process is above ground burial of carcasses in a mix of materials such as sawdust, poultry litter, straw bedding, spoiled silage and other compostables. Heat produced by microbes slowly cooks and degrades animal tissues while eliminating most disease pathogens and parasites. Process time is as little as several days for small birds to a year for mature cattle. Composting is suited for normal production mortality but under supervision can be used for catastrophic events where flocks of chickens might be condemned for disease control or a group of cows might be killed by lightening. Compost produced from normal mortality can be land applied with manure. Compost from diseased mortality should be buried or otherwise disposed in a sanitary manner as additional assurance of disease control. Mortality compost should not be used as animal bedding or feed supplement or provided to others for use off the farm.

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Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Presentation Time: 4:05 pm

Keywords:

composting, compost, animal mortality, waste treatment