

Name of Practice: COMPOSTER FACILITIES
DCR Specifications for No. WP-4C

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's composting facilities best management practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

A planned system designed to manage the treatment and disposal of poultry and swine carcasses resulting from normal mortality and to improve water quality by composting those carcasses and spreading the composted material at the proper time, rate, and location.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice is designed to provide facilities for composting poultry and swine carcasses from normal mortality, storage of raw materials necessary for composting, storage of the composted end product, and the recycling of composted carcasses by land applying the end product in a manner that will abate pollution that would otherwise result from existing disposal methods for normal poultry and swine mortality carcasses.

All applicants must have:

- i. A written operation and management plan for each composting structure.
- ii. A nutrient management plan developed in accordance with requirements for nutrient management plan content and procedures as stipulated in the Virginia Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations for land application of the composted end product and other animal wastes, which are land applied. The nutrient management plan shall be implemented and maintained for the life of the practice.
- iii. A manure test for the composted end product for nutrient analysis and, if applicable, a separate test for any other land applied animal wastes (once during the first twelve months of operation of the structure).
- iv. A thermometer of suitable design, which will permit temperature monitoring through the depth of the composting material within a bin or cell. During the composting process, temperatures must be achieved that are adequate to kill known pathogens.
- v. For composting swine mortality, one of the following high-carbon bulking agents for mortality coverage must be used:
 - a. Sawdust or fine wood chips obtained from a sawmill or other wood processing facility.
 - b. Ginning trash obtained from cotton gins.
 - c. Chopped straw or chopped cornstalks
 - d. Other organic materials as recommended by technical composting

publications including Virginia Cooperative Extension “Composting for Mortality Disposal on Hog Farms” publication 414-020 (Virginia Tech., 2003); Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service “Disposal of Swine Carcasses in Arkansas” publication MP392 (Univ. of Arkansas, 1997); Missouri Cooperative Extension Service “Composting Dead Swine” publication WQ225 (Univ. of Missouri, 1994).

2. Expenses are authorized for:
 - i. For composting facilities that will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil or water quality.
 - ii. For constructed composting facilities, which are free standing or attached to a dry waste stacking facility. Constructed composting facilities may also be housed within dry waste stacking facilities when housing the composting facilities does not interfere with the waste storage and management of stacking facilities.
 - iii. For prefabricated composting including drum composting facilities, cost-share payment and tax credit should consider the least costly technically feasible option.
 - iv. For leveling and filling to permit the installation of an effective system.
 - v. For concrete construction necessary for the structure's foundation and a minimal work area needed for equipment used to load, mix, and unload the compost and bulking materials into or from the composting facilities.

3. Expenses are not authorized:
 - i. For thermometers.
 - ii. For composting facilities that do not meet local and state regulations.
 - iii. For planned facilities. An existing water quality problem must be apparent to be eligible for funds.
 - iv. Cost-share is not authorized for planned enlargement of livestock operations. However, cost-share funds are available for use to solve existing problems.
 - v. For the acquisition of approved bulking agents.

4. All appropriate local and state permits must be obtained before cost-share payments are authorized.

5. In order to be eligible for cost-share or tax credit, producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field that this practice will be implemented on. The NMP must comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, (4VAC50-85 et seq.) and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014), must be prepared and certified by a Virginia certified nutrient management planner, and must be on file with the local District before any cost-share payment is made to the participant. Plans shall also contain any specific production

management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VACV50-85-130G).

6. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards 313 Waste Storage Facility, 316 Animal Mortality Facility, 317 Composting Facility, 362 Diversion, 367 Roofs and Covers, 382 Fence, 558 Roof Runoff Structure, 561 Heavy Use Area, 620 Underground Outlet, 633 Waste Recycling, and 634 Waste Transfer.
7. All practice components implemented must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the year of certification of completion. By accepting either a cost-share payment or a state tax credit for this practice the participant agrees to maintain all practice components for the specified lifespan. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice and failure to maintain the practice may result in reimbursement of cost share and/or tax credits.

C. Rate(s)

1. The state cost-share payment, alone or if combined with any other cost-share payment, will not exceed 75% of the total eligible cost of poultry and swine composting facilities only. The maximum state payment is \$50,000 per year for the construction or purchase of composting facilities.
2. The Tax Credit rate is 25% of the total eligible cost of swine or poultry composting facilities not to exceed \$17,500.00. If a participant receives Cost-Share, only the percent of the total cost of the project that the participant contributed is used to determine the Tax Credit.

D. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

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