

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY COMPOSTING FACILITIES  
DCR Specifications for No. VWP-4C

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's voluntary 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 treatment and disposal of poultry and swine carcasses resulting from normal mortality to improve water quality by composting poultry and swine carcasses from normal mortality 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 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 permits 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. This practice may include:
  - i. 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. Prefabricated composting facilities.
3. All appropriate local and state permits must be obtained before cost-share payments are authorized.
4. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
5. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.
6. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards 313 Waste Storage Facility, 316 Animal Mortality Facility, 317 Composting Facility, 367 Roofs and Covers, 558 Roof Runoff Management, 590 Nutrient Management, 620 Underground Outlet, 633 Waste Recycling, and 634 Waste Transfer.
7. All practice components implemented should be maintained for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of installation. This practice is subject to spot check by the SWCD throughout the lifespan of the practice.

C. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and SWCD 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.

Revised March, 2016