Livestock Mortality Management System

Definition/Purpose

A livestock mortality management system is a facility for managing livestock mortalities such as to minimize water quality impacts or to produce a material that can be recycled as a soil amendment and fertilizer substitute. Cost shareable mortality management system components include: composter, rotary drum composter, forced aeration static pile composter, mortality freezer, mortality incinerator and mortality gasification system.

A composter means a facility for the biological treatment, stabilization and environmentally safe storage or organic waste material (such as manure from poultry and livestock and dead animal carcasses) to produce a material that can be recycled as a soil amendment and fertilizer substitute.

A freezer means a unit capable of freezing and storing poultry and other small animal carcasses until such time they can be moved offsite rendering.

An incinerator or gasifier means a piece of equipment used to cremate dead poultry, swine, or other small animals.

Policies

1. ACSP funds will only be used to fund one mortality management system for each operation. Operations that have already received cost share for one mortality management system and are still in the required maintenance period for the practice have the option of repaying the prorated portion of their cost share to buy back eligibility. Recipients of cost share for composters have the additional option of converting the composter to a dry stack, provided the dry stack was of sufficient volume to meet NRCS standards. Cost share funds cannot be used to replace the same type of mortality management system.

2. A permit is required from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian for all composters, and all state regulations must be followed.

3. If a composter is approved, then a Waste Management Plan will be completed for the entire confined animal operation and not just the acreage associated with composter and compost. The Waste Management Plan must address stora-ge of litter needs for the entire confined animal operation. If compost or waste is land applied by the cooperator on any land under his/her control (owned, rented, etc.), then a detailed site location map delineation the fields and compost/waste is moved off the farm by a commercial contract hauler, the name address of the hauler is required with the contract. Waste Management Plan Statement (NC-ACSP-WMP) is required.

4. A composter shared by landowners is eligible for cost share if a landowner agreement is being attached to the contract. This agreement must be signed and dated by all landowners sharing the facility and must state that the facility may be used by each landowner for a minimum period of ten (10) years.

5. Landowners requesting commercial composters may receive 75% of treatment and storage volume. Payment will then be limited to the minimum volume required using the design criteria of the NRCS and the Cooperative Extension Service.

6. Payment will be made for the minimum volume required using NRCS and Extension Service design criteria for primary and secondary treatment, and/or storage of composted material in one structure. Storage volume is equal to a maximum of four (4) times the primary volume. Additional volume needed to accommodate the producer's equipment and/or desires will be at the producer's expense.

7. Pursuant to 15A NCAC 2H.0100 and 2H.0200 regulations, poultry waste storage structures must be located at least 100 feet from perennial streams and groundwater wells.

8. All NRCS and NC Agriculture Cost Share Program standards and policies relative to vegetation of critical areas must be followed, if applicable.

9. North Carolina Division of Air Quality exempts incinerators used to dispose of dead animals or poultry under the following conditions:

    a. The incinerator is located on a farm and is owned and operated by the farm owner or by the farm operator.
    b. The incinerator is used solely to dispose of animals or poultry originating on the farm where the incinerator is located.
    c. The incinerator is not charged at a rate that exceeds its design capacity.
    d. The incinerator compiles with visible emissions and odorous emissions requirements.

10. An Operation and Maintenance Plan Statement (NC-ACSP-OMP) is required for mortality incinerators, gasifiers and freezers.

11. A Waste Management Plan Statement (NC-ACSP-WMP) is required.

12. A mortality management system can only be used to dispose of mortalities associated with the planned operation.

13. Farmers with freezers must include in their waste management plans the name and telephone number of the rendering plant or recycling plant responsible for handling animal carcasses.

14. A Mortality System for poultry with an incinerator may include a roof over the incinerator.

15. BMP soil impact is not required on this BMP. Include the amount of fresh manure in nitrogen and phosphorus units, which will be generated and properly managed under the

waste management system. Also include the number of acres affected, animal type, and animal units.

16. Minimum life of BMP is ten (10) years for composters, rotary drum composters, forced aeration static pile composters, mortality freezers, and mortality gasification systems. Minimum life of BMP is five (5) years for mortality incinerators.

17. Any additional area needed to accommodate the producer's equipment and/or desires will be at the producer's expense. The additional area must be stipulated on the design and not receive cost share assistance. For example, if the operator stores equipment other than waste handling equipment in the structure and the design plan did not stipulate that the area of the designed structure was increased at the producer's expense, then the operator is out of compliance.

Specifications

North Carolina NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specification #316 (Animal Mortality Facility).