

Manure Composting Facility

Definition/Purpose

Composting is a biological process in which microorganisms convert manure and other organic matter into a soil-like material called compost. Compost can be applied as a soil amendment to improve soil tilth and plant growth. A composting facility is a facility for the biological treatment, stabilization and environmentally safe storage of organic waste material (such as manure from poultry and livestock) to minimize water quality impacts and to produce a material that can be recycled as a soil amendment and fertilizer substitute. (DIP)

Policies

1. If a composter is approved, an Operation and Management Plan must be developed to guide the user in the proper management of the composting facility. It should address carbon-nitrogen ratios, moisture, pile configuration, composting period, temperature, aeration, nutrients, odor, testing, and storage.
2. A Waste Management System Plan is required and should take into account the collection, treatment, storage, and end use of the compost. The plan will be completed for the entire animal operation and not just the acreage associated with composter and compost. If compost is land applied by the cooperator on any land under his/her control (owned, rented, etc.), then a detailed site location map delineating the fields used should be in the Waste Management System Plan. If compost is moved off the farm by a commercial contract hauler, the name and address of the hauler is required with the contract.
3. A composter must be covered with a roof to prevent nutrient runoff from the processing or treated material. Runoff from the composter must be collected and disposed of properly.
4. A composter shared by landowners is cost shared 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. For **rotary drum composters**, the NRCS State Engineer must approve the model.
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, waste storage structures must be located at least 100 feet from perennial streams and groundwater wells. NRCS specifications require all waste structures to be 100 feet from perennial streams or groundwater wells.

Agriculture Cost Share Program

8. All NRCS and NC Agriculture Cost Share Program standards and policies relative to vegetation of critical areas must be followed, if applicable.
9. A Waste Management Plan Statement (NC-ACSP-WMP) and an Operation and Maintenance Statement (NC-ACSP-OMP) are required.
10. 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.
11. Minimum life of BMP is ten (10) years.

Standards

N. C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Standard #317 (Composting Facility) and #590 (Nutrient Management).