

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/refrigeration unit and mortality incinerator system.

A composter means a facility for the biological treatment, stabilization and environmentally safe storage of 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/refrigeration unit means a unit capable of freezing and storing poultry and other small animal carcasses until such time they can be moved offsite for rendering.

An incinerator 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 storage 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 delineating the fields applied is required. If compost/waste is moved off the farm by a commercial contract hauler, the name and address of the hauler is required with the contract.
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.

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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 Division of Soil and Water Conservation, NRCS or 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 and must be indicated on the design.
7. Pursuant to 15A NCAC 02T .1303 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 complies with visible emissions and odorous emissions requirements.
10. A mortality management system can only be used to dispose of mortalities associated with the planned operation(s).
11. 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.
12. When a roof is installed on an incinerator, regardless of whether or not cost share is received, the size and other clearances as recommended by the incinerator manufacturer must be followed as described in the NRCS standard.
13. 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.** Secondary uses related to agriculture may be temporarily permitted provided they do not prevent the structure from being used for its primary purpose.

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LIVESTOCK MORTALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	
Maintenance Period	10 years except for incinerators which are 5 years
BMP Units	EACH
Required Effects	ACRES_AFFECTED ANIMAL TYPE ANIMAL UNITS N and P Waste Managed
JAA/NRCS standards unless otherwise noted	ENG - 316 - Animal Mortality Facility NC GS 106-403 "Disposition of dead domesticated animals". Administrative code 02 NCAC 52C .0102 "Disposal of Dead Animals".
CS2 Reference Materials	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads. Waste Management Plan NC-ACSP-OMP Form
Additional Spot-check Requirements	All waste management systems for operations not permitted by the Division of Water Resources must be spot-checked annually for five years following implementation.