

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
_____, OKLAHOMA**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
POULTRY MORTALITY COMPOSTING FACILITY**

Sponsor/Land user: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Legal description of practice location: SEC _____ T _____ R _____

A properly operated and maintained animal mortality composting facility is an asset to your farm. The structure was designed and installed to handle routine mortality from your poultry feeding operation. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this facility can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

OPERATION OF THE MORTALITY COMPOSTING FACILITY

Proper management of animal carcasses on the farm has implications in nutrient management, animal health, as well as farm family and public health. It is imperative to be familiar with best management practices (BMPs) for dealing with dead animals. These BMPs are required by state laws and regulation related to proper disposal or processing of mortalities. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) requires licensed confined animal feeding operations (CAFO's) and registered poultry feeding operations to have plans for handling losses of normal mortality and catastrophic losses. Proper mortality disposal prevents the spread of infectious, contagious and communicable diseases and protects air, water and soil quality. Carcass composting is an environmentally preferable method of managing mortalities. When performed correctly, the end product may be incorporated into existing land application of manures following the criteria found in your CNMP.

Your poultry feeding facility utilizes onsite composting to dispose of normal mortality using a Mortality Composting Facility. Based on the normal mortality data that you provided, the normal mortality is estimated to be ____ percent(%) which results in approximately _____ pounds of carcasses per day. This facility provides ____ primary composting bins with a composting volume of _____ cubic feet. The design of this facility includes the volume required to perform secondary composting in the storage area immediately behind the primary bins.

Dead bird carcasses will be collected daily and placed in composting bins following the guidance provided in *Oklahoma Conservation Practice Job Sheet 316 04 Animal Mortality Facility – Mortality Composting*. Bins will be used for the primary stage or first heat cycle. Poultry litter and a coarse textured carbon source, such as hay or straw, will be used to compost the carcasses. Once the compost material has been through the first heat cycle and reached

ambient air temperature it will be turned and relocated to the secondary storage area behind the bins to undergo a second heat cycle. The material will be monitored for moisture and temperature throughout the primary composting stage prior to removal to the secondary storage area within the structure. Once the composted material has been through two heat cycles and reached ambient temperature it can be mixed with litter and utilized according to the utilization requirements found in the CNMP.

In the event of a catastrophic loss, the ODAFF inspector or State Veterinarian should be notified before beginning carcass disposal depending on the cause of the catastrophic event. The primary and secondary compost facilities can be used to the maximum extent possible during catastrophic mortality events if appropriate.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- The building should be thoroughly inspected at least twice a year when empty.
- Any wooden parts, hardware, or other replaceable parts that are damaged or show excessive wear or decay should be replaced.
- Do not allow the operation of any equipment that exceeds the design load limit on or within twenty feet of the structure.
- All disturbed areas around the structure, including spoil or borrow areas, should be vegetated or covered with gravel to prevent erosion.
- Maintain all electrical and mechanical equipment, if applicable, in good operating condition by following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Maintain grounding rods and wiring for all electrical equipment in good condition.
- All fences, railings, and/or warning signs shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to the structure, earthen areas surrounding the structure, or any appurtenances.
- Follow the schedule developed for emptying the structure.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Repair spalls, cracks and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint.
- Repair or replace rotted or damaged lumber and posts.
- Apply insecticides for insect control as per manufacturer's recommendations and precautions, as needed and according to the Pest Management Plan.
- Operate system in a manner to minimize odors and air drift.
- Utilization or disposal of the stored poultry litter compost will be according to the current nutrient management plan for your facility.

Additional information on composting and poultry waste management is available at the following link: <http://poultrywaste.okstate.edu/>

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR YOUR STRUCTURE.