

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
WEST VIRGINIA
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS
ANIMAL MORTALITY FACILITY
CODE 316

Landowner/Operator _____
County _____ CD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____
Prepared By _____ Date _____

A properly installed and maintained animal mortality facility practice can be an asset to the farm. The project was installed to manage the normal animal mortality from agricultural operations producing animal commodities. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of the practice can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice requires periodic O&M to properly manage and keep the system in good repair. Items for consideration are:

- Dispose of normal animal mortality losses as quickly as possible.
- The facility should be in an area that allows the free movement of air. However, the installation of fans may be needed. Odors can be minimized by proper pile management. If there is an excess of odors you may need to adjust your compost mix or turn the pile. Other methods may be used to reduce odors depending on the method of disposal.
- Safety considerations. Fence off areas as needed. Install safety signage as needed.
- Periodic inspections of mortality facility and appurtenant structures; at least annually. Promptly repair or replace damaged appurtenances.
- Refer to the manufacturer or installer for troubleshooting mechanical equipment as appropriate.
- **Biosecurity.** Provide the most direct path from the source of carcass to the animal mortality facility. Protect the facility from scavengers. Install fence as needed. Limit access to carcass and compost. Clean and disinfect equipment prior to use on other areas of the operation/ farm. Notify the State Veterinarian if highly infectious disease is suspected in herd or flock.
- **Odors.** Properly covered carcass will limit odors. Exhaust air from an actively composting drum can be blown through a container of mature compost, bark chips, or other biofilter material to remove odors and trap ammonia. Monitor moisture content. Excess moisture can lead to anaerobic conditions that generate odors.

Additional O&M for Incinerators and Gasifiers

- Use the incinerator and gasifier only for the disposal of animal carcasses.