


Cornell Waste Management Institute

Routine & Emergency Carcass Composting



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Situation

- Lack of Services
- Specified Risk Material (SRM)-Parts Not Accepted
- Cost
- Access



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Disposal Options

- Alkaline Digestion
- Rendering
- Mass Burial
- Incineration
- Landfill
- Compost




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Risk

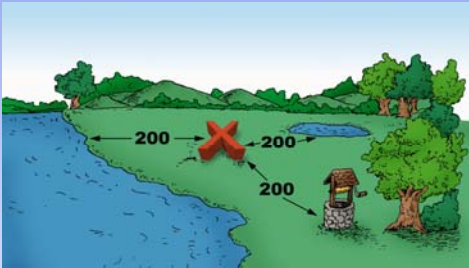
Animals exhibiting sign of neurological diseases before death should not be composted and should be reported to the USDA for autopsy and proper disposal.

We have no evidence that Prions such as the ones that cause Mad Cow Disease are killed in the compost process.



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Site Selection



Well-drained, at least 200 ft from water courses, sinkholes, seasonal seeps or other landscape features that indicate the area is hydrologically sensitive.

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Three-Bin Covered System



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Concrete & Block



The photograph shows a construction site with several concrete blocks stacked on a gravel surface. In the background, there are trees and a clear sky.

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Static Windrow



The photograph shows a large pile of organic material, likely manure or compost, in a static windrow. The material is piled up in a long, narrow row between two concrete walls.

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Carbon Sources

- Wood chips, Shavings, Sawdust
- Refused feed
- Spoiled Silage
- Chopped Cornstalk
- Nut Hulls
- Partially Composted Material
- Bedded Pack
- Straw/Hay
- Think about coarse, dry carbon sources in your area

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Compost Bed



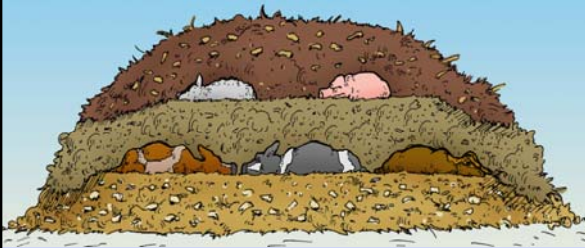
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Lance Rumen



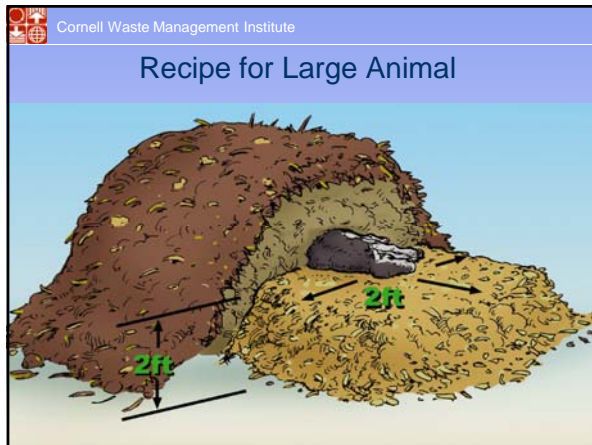
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Recipe for Small Animals

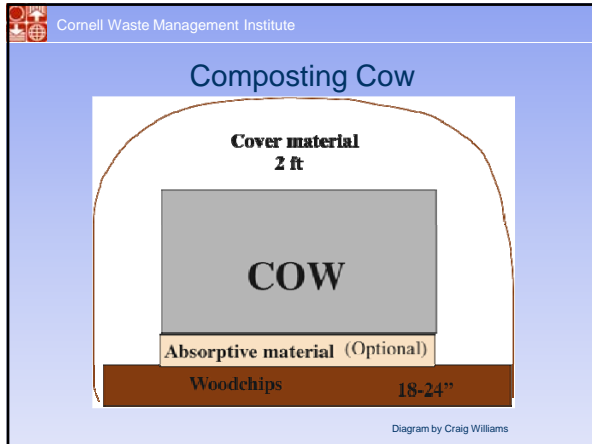


For young animals, layer mortalities with a minimum of 2 feet of co-composting material.

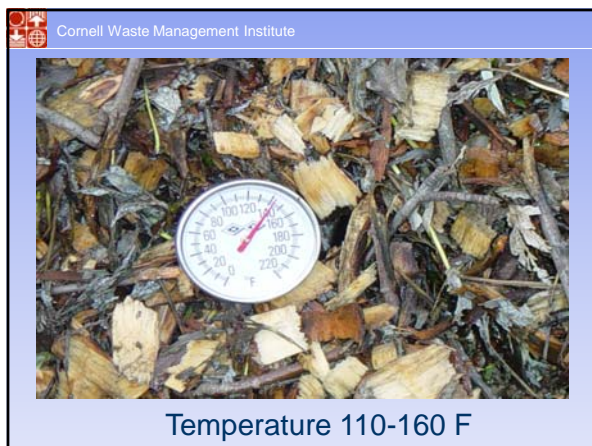














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Moisture Management

In dry conditions, wet chunky carbon source while building the pile.

Shape pile to accept or reduce moisture input

1. Peaked piles allow the least input
2. Flat topped windrows accept the moisture that fall on them
3. A pile with a trench can allow moisture to collect and be absorbed

Note: Do a squeeze test. Collect a handful of amendment, squeeze.

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Time it Takes

- Well stacked pile should heat up in 12-24 hours.
 - Month 1 - cooked meat
 - Month 2 - meat is digested
 - Month 3 - clean bones
 - Mature compost 6-9 months
- Frozen animals placed in piles - Feb 2004 piles registered 40 F
- Late May - reached temperatures of 130 F

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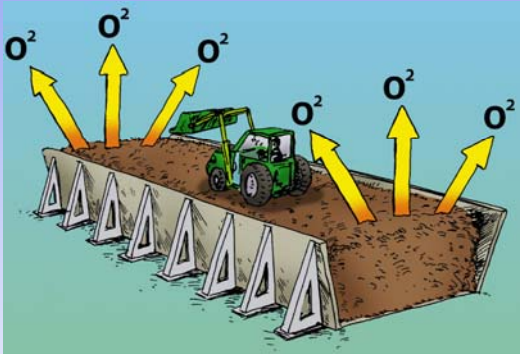
Process

- Let set for 4-6 months;
- Turn only if desired after 3 months large livestock, poultry varies;
- Reuse bones as part of next base.



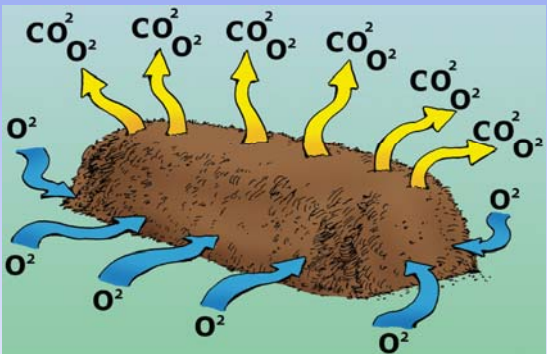
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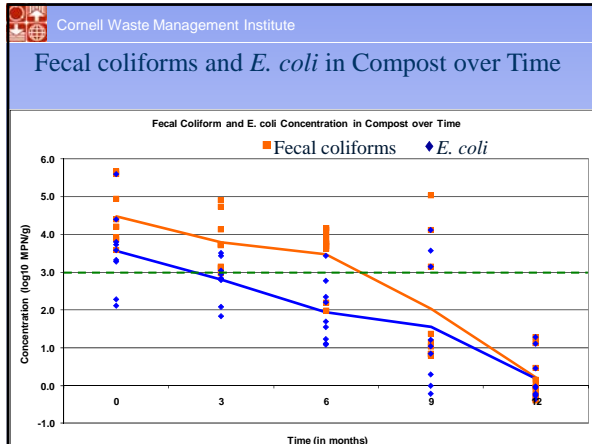
How Silage Is Made

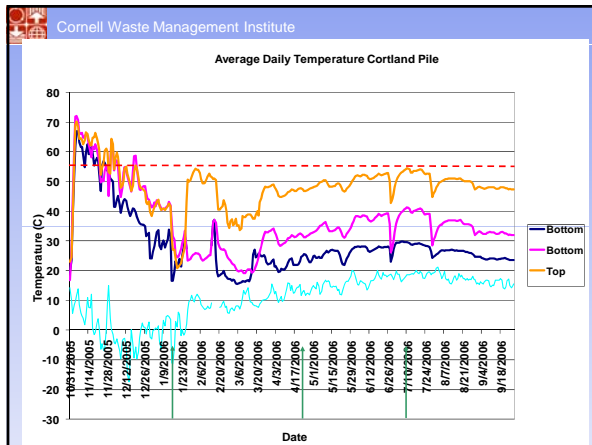


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Static Pile Aeration








Disposal of End Product

- Reuse as base, don't reuse as top layer
- Remove large bones and land spread
- Use on feed crops harvested above ground
- Spread on forest or non human food crops

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Cautions

- Regulation/policy
- Securing carbon source
- Reuse carbon source for base
- Size of pile
- Poor coverage
- Odor



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You Can Compost Any Size Animal!

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Contact

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- Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality and Butcher-12-page fact sheet, posters and DVD.
- Emergency Planning for Avian Influenza and Composting Roadkill
