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Veterinary Division

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In an effort to provide general provisions for solid waste compost facilities exempt from 15A NCAC 13B .1402 via (f)(2) and fulfill needs of 15A NCAC 02T .0113 (a)(12), pursuant to State Statutes 106-403 and 02 NCAC 52C.0102, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Veterinary Division approves of all solid waste compost facilities meeting the following conditions and stipulations:

1. facility meets other requirements to be permitted by regulation through the Department of Environmental Quality under 15A NCAC 02T .0113 (a)(12), i.e. it is constructed on an impervious, weight-bearing foundation and operated under a roof
2. all North Carolina solid waste, air, water quality, and other applicable regulations must be met in siting and operation of the system ^a
3. only poultry or swine are to be processed in this facility; NO bovine, caprine, ovine or cervid species shall be processed
4. mortality to be processed shall originate only from the premises on which the composter is located ^b
5. the final product of the process must be stored, treated and utilized in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and approval requirements; the final product shall not be sold to the public unless it meets a class A certification ^c
6. temperatures shall reach a minimum of 131 degrees F within 5 days of filling the unit and remain at least at 131 degrees F for a minimum of 3 consecutive days to inactivate most livestock pathogens in accordance with USDA APHIS guidelines. This time course is to be immediately followed by a pile temperature of 122 degrees F or greater for 2 further consecutive days to maintain the composting process according to NCRS guidelines
7. dead animals are not to be removed from composting until all flesh, internal organs, and other soft tissue are decomposed beyond recognition
8. the proposed facility shall have the following minimum setback requirements: ^d
 - 100-foot buffer between all property lines and compost facilities
 - 100-foot buffer between all wells and compost facilities, except for monitoring wells
 - 50-foot buffer between perennial streams/rivers and compost facilities
9. plans and operational records shall be maintained on site and be available upon request by NCDA&CS, Veterinary Division personnel
10. the facility and operational records shall be available for inspection by NCDA&CS, Veterinary Division personnel upon request
11. operational records shall include temperature monitoring during initial facility start-up and follow-up records that contain either 10 days/month temperature monitoring or annual laboratory results of pathogen load testing
12. the Veterinary Division must be immediately notified of any complicating issues involving animal disease or environmental concerns
13. the State Veterinarian reserves the right to cancel this approval if a specific concern for controlling animal disease arises, or if any of the aforementioned conditions are not met.

This document shall in no circumstances be interpreted as an endorsement of any specific manufacturer or type of mortality management system by the State Veterinarian and the Office of the State Veterinarian does not approve or disapprove the technical or performance standards for specific makes or designs of equipment.

^a NCDA&CS, Veterinary Division strongly encourages approval applicants to seek the technical assistance of a NRCS - USDA official in planning, developing, and carrying out this project.

^b While formal veterinary division approval is limited to composters receiving mortality from the premises on which they are built, if a premises moves carcasses to a compost facility on a different poultry or swine premises, the owner must comply with conditions in GS 106-168.8 (5) and (6) followed by licensed renderers. Carcasses must be transported within 24 hours of death in a leak-proof vessel or vehicle with a cover, to prevent spread of disease by flies or other agents during the transportation. The vessel or vehicle must be disinfected following loading of carcasses, to prevent the spread of disease. After unloading at the compost facility, the vehicle or vessel must be cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving. The person loading and transporting the carcasses must use suitable protective clothing including foot protection.

All anticipated movement of carcasses from one premises to another for composting should be reported to NCDA&CS, including farm names and addresses of all premises involved, prior to movement. This will help to facilitate disease response in the event of an outbreak in the region.

^c Additional requirements and regulations may apply from DEQ, Department of Environmental Quality if application for off-farm disposition of composted material is requested (see G.S. 130A-309.29 and 15A NCAC 13B.1407).

^d As property lines can shift over time, it is recommended that property owners maintain documentation that can serve as formal documentation of when the composter was built.