



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278

April 29, 2008

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN 300-8-14

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP Animal Mortality Facility - Rotary Drum Composters

Purpose: To provide guidance for implementing Animal Mortality Facility, practice code 316, using a mechanical rotary drum or other similar design composter.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2008

Background: This is a treatment component of an agricultural waste management system for biological stabilization of organic material. New technology has emerged in the livestock production industry using a mechanical rotary drum composting system. It is becoming popular for small poultry (20,000-40,000 birds) operations. However, industry information indicates it will work with other types of livestock. We have decided to do a pilot program in Indiana and test the effectiveness of the mechanical rotary drum composter.

Implementation: The mechanical rotary drum composting system will be allowed to be used following Indiana NRCS Standard 316, Animal Mortality Facility specifications and will be eligible for EQIP financial assistance on a limited basis. The design, cost estimate, and location will be approved by Mike Cox, State Conservation Engineer, and Jim Dunaway, Acting ASTC - Programs prior to starting the installation.

The commercial units are usually mounted on steel skids which could allow the unit to be moved. Therefore, as a minimum, contract reviews would have to assure that the composter is being used for the intended conservation purposes and is only being used on land under EQIP contract.

The payment rate for the mechanical rotary drum composter will be based on the cost list/payment schedule established for the Fiscal Year of the EQIP contract. For FY 06 and FY 07 contracts the payment will be calculated on the square footage needed as if the original concrete or wood wall mortality composter listed in the contract was being installed. For FY 08 contracts, the payment is based on \$425 per animal unit being composted. Refer to the EQIP guidance document for the specific year for additional details. For FY05 and older contracts, contact Jim Dunaway, Acting ASTC - Programs for guidance.

Existing practice caps will not be exceeded and the cost share in the contract will not be raised except where the square footage of the practice must be adjusted based on the herd mortality.

DIST: 0

The Swine Composter Sizing Worksheet and the Poultry Composter Sizing Worksheet can be found under the Indiana Handbook Supplement IN-10-2 on the Indiana Directives web site at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/HandbookSupplements/Ag%20Waste%20Mgt%20Field%20Hndbk/Chapter%2010%20Composting.pdf> .

An electronic version of the Swine Composter Sizing Worksheet can be found at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/engineering/SpreadSheets/Swine%20Composter.xls> .

If EQIP participants are interested in using the mechanical rotary drum composter, Area Engineers should contact Mike Cox for information that will be needed for the initial design review and approval.

EQIP participants should be willing to cooperate with NRCS and provide loading, operation and usage information and allow NRCS reasonable access to the facility for the purpose of evaluating the functionality of these composters.

Questions concerning this bulletin may be directed to Jim Dunaway, Acting ASTC - Programs, at 317-290-3200, ext. 334, or Mike Cox, PE, State Conservation Engineer, 317-290-3200, ext. 353.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist