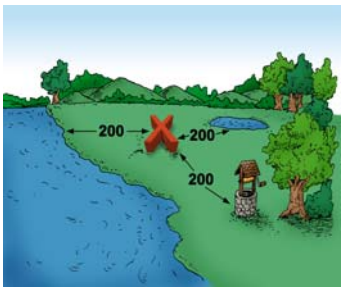
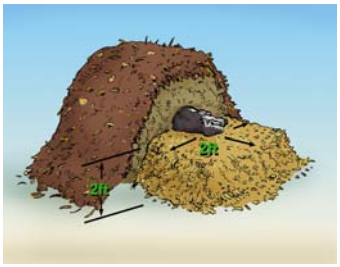
# Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality

## *Key Points of Static Pile Carcass Composting*



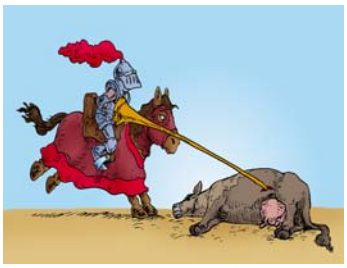

### *Select Site*

**1.** Select site that is well drained, at least 200 feet from water courses, sinkholes, seasonal seeps, or other landscape features that indicate the area is hydrologically sensitive.




### *Prepare Base*

**2.** Lay 24-inch bed of bulky, absorbing organic material contains some sizeable pieces 4-6 inches long. Utility and municipal wood chips work well. Ensure the base is large enough to allow for 2-foot clearance around the carcass.



### *Place Animal & Lance Rumen*

**3.** Lay animal in the center of the bed. Lance the rumen to avoid bloating and possible explosion. Explosive release of gases can result in odor problems and it will blow the cover material off the composting carcass.

### *Cover*

**4.** Cover carcass with dry, high-carbon material, old silage, sawdust or dry stall bedding (some semi-solid manure will expedite the process).

*Building pile in Washington County, NY in 5$^0$ F temperatures*

### *Let Sit 4 to 6 Months*

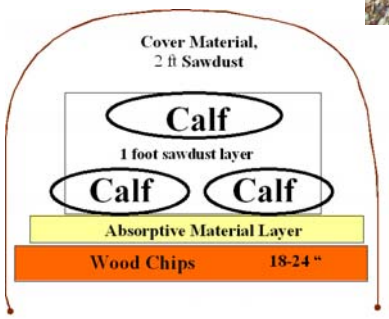
**6.** Let sit for 4-6 months, then check to see if carcass is fully degraded.

### *Reuse the Composted Material*

**7.** Reuse the composted material for another carcass compost pile,or remove large bones and land apply.

### *Cleanliness*

**8.** Site cleanliness is the most important aspect of composting, it deters scavengers, and helps control odors and keeps good neighbor relations.




### *Layer Young Animals*

**5.** For young animals, layer mortalities with a minimum of 2 feet of carbon material between layers.

### *Turning Note*

Carcass and butcher residual piles should not be turned early in the process unless there are no neighbors that would be affected. Odor is a big issue most of the time. After 3 months, turning is an option and will speed the curing process.

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*Source: "Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality and Butcher Waste" fact sheet*

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