

NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

TITLE 23, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, CHAPTER 17  
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
LIVESTOCK COMPOSTING REGULATIONS

December, 2010 Amended  
Date

NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

TITLE 23 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CHAPTER 17 - LIVESTOCK COMPOSTING REGULATIONS

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LAST DATE AMENDED: November 19, 2003

TITLE 23 - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

Chapter 17 - LIVESTOCK COMPOSTING REGULATIONS

001 Statement of Purpose. The purpose of these regulations is to set the operating procedures for composting livestock carcasses. Neb. Rev. Stat. §54-744.

002 Definitions.

002.01 COMPLETELY COMPOSTED means to leave a carcass or carcass part in a composting facility until there is no visual sign of soft tissue or bones which have not demineralized before spreading on land.

002.02 COMPOSTING means the biological decomposition of livestock carcasses under controlled conditions to a state where storage, handling, and land application can be achieved without adversely affecting the environment.

002.03 COMPOSTING FACILITY means the facility which is used for composting, storing composting materials, and compost.

002.04 DISEASE VECTOR means, but is not limited to, rodents, flies, mosquitos, or other pests capable of transmitting diseases to animals.

002.05 LEACHATE means liquid which is produced by the decomposition of livestock carcasses during the composting process, which seeps from the compost pile.

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002.06 LIVESTOCK CARCASSES means the dead bodies of cattle, swine, sheep, horses, mules, goats, domesticated cervine animals, ratite birds, and poultry, or the parts thereof.

003 Livestock Composting.

003.01 The owner or operator of each composting facility which composts livestock carcasses shall design and construct a composting facility to meet the following minimum design and construction operating procedures:

003.01A Composting surface and drainage.

003.01A(1) Storm water runoff from contributing drainage shall be prevented from entering the composting facility by the use of berms or other diverting barriers;

003.01A(2) Leachate control shall be provided wherever leachate is generated;

003.01A(3) The composting area shall be graded to prevent ponding of liquids;

003.01A(4) The surface of the composting area shall be constructed of materials capable of supporting all equipment used and minimize infiltration of leachate;

003.01A(5) The composting facility shall be constructed to adequately facilitate the composting process; and

003.01A(6) The composting facility shall be constructed and operated so inclement weather will not cause excessive leachate or runoff to surface water.

003.01B Composting facility roads shall be constructed to allow all-weather access for managing the composting facility.

003.01C The composting facility shall have the capacity of storing the following materials:

003.01C(1) The materials being processed;

003.01C(2) The finished compost material, not to exceed 12 months' production; and

003.01C(3) Carbon material to be used in the compost process.

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004 Composting Facility Operations. The owner or operator of each composting facility composting livestock carcasses shall, at minimum, perform the following:

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004.01 Control disease vectors, dust, and litter;

004.02 Ensure that livestock carcasses are not visible from public roads or habitable structures;

004.03 Protect the facility from scavenging by animals;

004.04 Begin processing all livestock carcasses within twenty-four (24) hours after their deaths;

004.05 Keep livestock carcasses in the composting facility until completely composted before spreading on land; and

004.06 Remove all finished compost within twelve (12) months of the completion of the compost process.

005 Composting Facility Closure. Prior to closing a composting facility, the owner or operator shall perform the following:

005.01 Remove all materials from the composting facility which have completely composted; or

005.02 Dispose of all materials still in the composting process, by a method approved by the Department of Agriculture; and

005.03 Clean and disinfect, with an approved bacteriological/virucidal agent, all containers, equipment, machines, floors, and site surfaces which have been in contact with dead livestock or compost material.

006 Access. The owner or operator of a composting facility shall allow Nebraska Department of Agriculture personnel access to the composting facility during normal working hours. Neb. Rev. Stat. §54-703.

007 Annotation. Neb. Rev. Stat. §§54-701.03, 54-703 and 54-744.