



## TECHNICAL NOTE

FOR IN-SERVICE USE

### DEAD CHICKEN COMPOSTING THE BENEFITS

#### INTRODUCTION

Proper waste management and disposal practices are essential in today's climate of environmental awareness and constraints. All types of livestock operations need to individually formulate a mix of "Best Management Practices" which will consider environmental concerns, meet state laws and regulations, minimize expenses, and maximize income and enterprise management.

Properly used poultry waste can be a resource of value to an enterprise, while blending benignly into the environment. Poultry waste can be used as fertilizer, in fertilizer, as a feed supplement for beef cattle, as a rooting media for specialty crops in nurseries, and as a soil amendment in landscaping industries. Uses such as these, adds favorably to the observation of intelligent, hard-working, managers who are concerned about their environment and the future sustainability of their enterprise.

Improperly used poultry waste can be a source of expense to an enterprise, while blending harshly into the environment. Poultry waste dumped in a sinkhole, a creek, an abandoned well, a bored hole or used as on-farm feed for other livestock, damages the observation of intelligent, hard-working, managers who are concerned about their environment and the future sustainability of their enterprise.

#### COMPOSTING PARTICULARS

A properly operated and maintained dead bird composting facility is an asset to a farm. While the practice will require increased management and some additional operation and maintenance expenses, the facility is designed to safely dispose of dead birds, maximize litter recycling, and prevent undesirable environmental pollution.

**Onsite Benefits:**

- Insects, especially flies are dramatically reduced. This enhances the health of the overall enterprise and the reduces health threats to human workers.
- Composting is a controlled natural process.
- Reduced volume of waste to be disposed of by composting.
- Reduced potential of rodent-borne diseases and associated predator infestation.
- Reduced weed infestation as the seeds are mostly destroyed by the heat generated during the composting process.
- Reduced fertilizer costs due to the improved utility of waste utilization.
- Reduced nutrient loss from litter due to leaching and runoff.
- Slower, better timed-release of nutrients to waste applied land.
- Improved air quality especially in relation to undesirable odors.
- Improved aesthetics of the overall farming enterprise.
- Improved ground and surface water quality.
- Land usage and value is not restricted or reduced from pit or hole method.
- Operation time savings.
- Improved soil quality.
- Improved financial portfolio.

**Offsite Benefits:**

- Improved ground and surface water quality.
- Increased protection of ground and surface water quantity.
- Improved consumptive recreational opportunities (i.e. fishing, hunting, etc.)
- Improved nonconsumptive recreational opportunities (i.e. camping, hiking, etc.)
- Improved area real estate values.
- Decreased potential of water quality health related problems.
- Decreased undesirable plant growth.
- Improved biological and wildlife habitats.
- Reduced risk of regulatory corrective measures.
- Improved aesthetics.
- Improved soil quality.

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