



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Hardin County Extension News Release

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Livestock Mortality Composting Workshop

Hardin County - Poultry, dairy, swine, beef cattle and other livestock producers wanting to learn economically and environmentally beneficial ways to handle the death of their animals can earn livestock mortality composting certification through a course offered by experts and hosted by OSU Extension and the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

Livestock producers all have to deal with animal mortality at some point on their farms whether the death is the result of illness, old age, natural disasters or birthing problems, said Dale Ricker, on Ohio State University Extension swine program specialist.

While producers can choose any one of four state-approved methods for disposing of dead livestock in Ohio, composting is the most cost-effective because it can be done onsite with little effort or supplies, Ricker said. The other legal options to handle livestock mortality include incineration, burial and rendering, he said.

“Composting livestock mortality is one of the most economical options when you consider the issue from a standpoint that it is an issue that a producer can face 365 days a year,” Ricker said. “While it is legal to incinerate livestock mortality, send the animal to a rendering facility or bury the animal, digging to the proper burial depth required by law is hard to do in winter months with frozen ground, for example.

“However, composting can be done easily right on site.” Certification is required by law if producers want to use composting as a method to deal with livestock and poultry mortality in animals that naturally die or have to be euthanized, Ricker said. Ohio requires producers attend a mortality composting training session conducted by OSU Extension.

The workshop begins at 1:00 p.m. and will end by 4:00 p.m. March 28 at the Hardin County OSU Extension office, 1021 W Lima Street, Suite 103, in Kenton. Registration is \$10, which includes a workbook and certificate, and can be paid at the door. Please pre-register by calling Hardin County OSU Extension at 419-674-2297 or going to hardin.osu.edu to register online.

Participants will learn principles and operations of livestock mortality composting; selecting a good site; design options; managing the compost facility; biosecurity and disease prevention; rules and regulations; and troubleshooting, which includes a review of the basic principles and management of livestock mortality composting. Participants will also receive a manual which outlines the processes, procedures, rules and regulations regarding livestock mortality composting.

Article written by Tracy Turner, OSU CFAES Communications and edited by Mark Badertscher, OSU Extension - Hardin County.