

Composting and Red Tide- Animal Mortality Composting May Hold Potential for Handling Fish Remains

Resources generously provided by [Brenda Platt](#) from the [Institute for Local Self Reliance](#) and [Jean F. Bonhotal](#) from [Cornell Waste Management Institute](#).

Benefits of Animal Mortality Composting (from 12p fact sheet):

- Pathogen kill occurs in thermophilic composts
- Can be done any time of year
- Can be done using common highway (or small scale farm/garden) equipment, readily available materials and at different scales
- Relatively odor free
- All sizes of animals can be composted
- Relatively low labor and management needed
- Low cost

Overview (composting fish waste & road kill):

- 12p illustrated fact sheet ([PDF](#)) on the "how to" of composting road kill deer, 2007.
- 8-minute DVD accompanies the 12p fact sheet ([download](#)), 2007.
- Composting fish waste: <http://compost.css.cornell.edu/fishwaste.html>
- Illustrated poster ([PDF](#)), 2007.
- What To Do With A Dead Deer: Compost It. [Article](#) published in the Cornell Chronicle. 2012.
- Maine's composting regulations - specifically address fish waste as Type IC residuals - documented in 2016 (<https://ilsr.org/rule/on-farm-composting/maine/>) w/ current regs [here – select Ch 410](#).

Additional Resources:

- Composting Road Killed Deer in New York. [Article](#) published in BioCycle 45(5):25-26, 2004.
- Composting Commercial Fish Processing Waste (from Michigan Great Lakes w/comments on mercury and halogenated hydrocarbons): ([PDF](#)), 2005.
- Relevance and Persistence of Pathogens in Mortality Composting - a [Literature Review](#).
- Environmental Effects of Mortality Disposal. [Proceedings](#) from the 3rd International Symposium: Management of Animal Carcasses, Tissue and Related Byproducts. 2009
- [Links](#) to project reports and photos - Pathogen Analysis of NYS Department of Transportation Road-killed Deer Carcass Compost Facilities.

Avian Influenza and Poultry Composting:

- [Avian Influenza and Poultry Composting](#) resource page by Cornell WMI

- 12p illustrated fact sheet ([PDF](#)) for poultry composting and addresses the emergency response to disease control, 2008 (revised 2016).
- 6-minute video "Composting Poultry Mortality" complements the fact sheet ([download](#)), 2008.
- Illustrated poster ([PDF](#) or [Powerpoint](#)), 2008.
- A literature review ([PDF](#)) of avian influenza and methods of disposal of affected poultry, 2008.
- Emergency Response Planning for Disposal of Avian Influenza Affected Birds in NYS. [Proceedings](#) from the 3rd International Symposium: Management of Animal Carcasses, Tissue and Related Byproducts. 2009.
- [Mortality Composting Protocol for Avian Influenza Infected Flocks - FY2016 HPAI Response](#). 31p procedure manual. Manual can also be access [here](#). 2016.
- Mortality Management Options During an Avian Influenza Outbreak. This 70-min. webcast provides a current update of the outbreak and highlights mortality management options. [View here](#). October 2015.