

Guidelines for the Best Management Practices for Composting Yard Waste, Race Track Stable Bedding or other Woody Waste or Agricultural Production/Processing Wastes Needing a Permanent Facility.

Purpose:

The Best Management Practice (BMP) program was established to allow the management of solid wastes from agricultural and forestry production and processing. The purpose of the program is to require less regulation for wastes that pose minimal risk to the environment if handled properly. Enrollment in this program does not reduce an individual responsibility to prevent environmental degradation or nuisance problems. This program is administered by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry through its Office of Soil and Water Conservation.

To enroll in the program the waste generator is required to develop a individual plan according to the attached guidelines and submit it to the Office of Soil and Water Conservation. If the plan is acceptable and approved, you will receive a letter of approval, a copy of this letter will go to Solid Waste Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to notify them of your enrollment in the program. This letter will serve as your operating authority.

If complaints occur, you will be contacted by the Office of Soil and Water Conservation personnel to resolve the problem. Failure to follow the facility plan may result in regulation of your facility by the LDEQ Solid Waste Division, possibly including loss of exempt status, permitting, and/or enforcement action.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE LARGE SCALE COMPOSTING

Definition

Collection, storage and composting of yard waste, race track stable bedding and other woody or agricultural production and processing residues.

Purpose

To define location, site preparation and operation standards for safely converting woody and agricultural residues to a beneficial material easier and more pleasant to use.

Conditions where Practice Applies

Where yard waste, race track bedding and other woody or agricultural residues are present in large quantities or on a year round basis for establishing a composting facility.

To participate in the BMP Program the following minimum guidelines must be met. Failure to correct deficiencies upon notice can result in dismissal from the program.

Siting

The site should be chosen to minimize the risk of environmental impact. Consideration should be given to control of noise, dust, odor, runoff, leachate, and vectors.

The site location must be in accordance with all local, state and federal zoning and land use regulations.

A buffer zone should be established around the site perimeter to reduce impact on neighboring land users. Provisions should be made for aesthetics and visual screening around the perimeter.

Public notice and an adequate opportunity for public comment should be given prior to establishing the site.

Site Characteristics

The site should be sloped for drainage, well drained and designed to collect runoff (and leachate) from the compost in the compost area.

The site should have soils of low permeability or be surfaced to protect ground waters. Local codes should be consulted for guidance. Control structures or natural features adequate to control run-on and collect run-off shall be maintained.

The site shall be laid out and designed to permit all-weather operation, if applicable. Areas for receiving, storage, mixing, composting and shipping should be provided. Material flow plans should be provided for site layout. Receiving area should be adequate for all weather use.

Site space should be adequate for anticipated volumes and the method of composting being used. Expansion room should be provided if desired or possible.

Site specific permits may be needed for water discharges, wetlands and flood plains among others.

Consult with your local county agent and the Natural Resource Conservation Service for information on soils.

Water and other utilities should be provided.

A method to control access shall be provided.

Operation Plan

A record shall be kept of incoming waste and sources of waste.

Compost shall be managed to enhance aerobic decomposition.

Some method of measuring composting progress should be utilized (i.e., temperature, organic matter decomposition, etc.) and records kept to document results.

Where odors occur, immediate steps should be taken to alleviate the problem (i.e., turning, blending materials, increasing air flow.

A plan for fire control and other emergencies shall developed and explained to all personnel.

It shall be your responsibility to supply adequate information to users for proper use of compost in leaflet or other form.

It is recommended that the finished material be analyzed semi-annually by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture.

Finished compost should be stored in a manner as to not create a nuisance.

It is recommended that one person attend the LSU Ag Center Compost Operator Training Program.

At closure, excess materials shall be removed and the site shall be restored to usable condition.