

Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Bureau of Waste Management Policy 2018-P1  
**Livestock Mortality Composting Pad and Roof Requirements**

**Purpose**

This policy clarifies the construction requirements for livestock composting facilities to encourage livestock mortality composting.

**Background**

Unlike most other types of composting facilities in Kansas, livestock composting facilities have a pad or roofing requirement. Kansas Administrative Regulation (KAR) 28-29-25d(a)(1)(F) states:

*The facility shall be constructed with either a floor or a roof that meets one of the following requirements:*

- (i) The floor shall be composed of a layer of material that is at least one foot thick and has a hydraulic conductivity no greater than  $10^{-7}$  cm/sec, or the facility shall be designed to provide the same level of protection to the groundwater; or*
- (ii) The receiving, processing, and curing areas shall be covered by a roof, or the facility shall be designed to provide the same level of protection from the weather.*

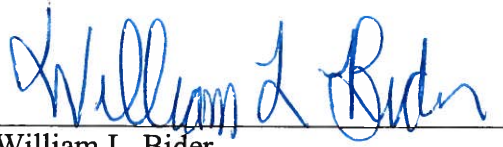
Rendering is becoming costlier and less available to the livestock industry and as a result some facilities are now burying their daily mortalities. To encourage livestock facilities to consider composting daily mortalities as a preferred and environmentally-friendly disposal option, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) intends to modify existing solid waste regulations that include strict construction standards which may discourage facility decisions to carry out on-site composting. KDHE will propose regulation changes that lessen certain standards without adversely impacting environmental protection. Because the need to increase composting and minimize burial is immediate, this policy was developed and implemented to highlight flexibilities related to the construction requirements for livestock composting facilities.

Both KAR 28-29-25d(a)(1)(F)(i) and (ii) include language that allows KDHE discretion to approve composting facilities that are constructed in a way that provides the same level of protection to groundwater or from the weather as the more detailed specifications noted in the regulation.

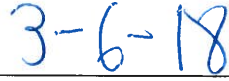
**Action**

KDHE will consider facilities that are designed so that animal mortalities are completely surrounded or encased (bottom, top, and sides) with a minimum of 24 inches of carbonaceous material (e.g., wood chips, ground hay, ground straw, or partially composted yard waste) during the composting process as meeting the “designed to provide the same level of protection” standard included in both KAR 28-29-25d(a)(1)(F)(i) and (ii). All other livestock composting facility design and construction regulations remain applicable.

This policy shall remain in effect until it is revoked or is rendered obsolete by amendments to the solid waste laws or regulations.

Handwritten signature of William L. Bider in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

William L. Bider  
Director, Bureau of Waste Management

Handwritten date 3-6-18 in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date