

# NATURAL RENDERING: Composting Livestock Mortality & Butcher Waste



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The following resources are available from:  
Natural Resource, Agriculture, and  
Engineering Service (NRAES)  
607/255-7654 or  
email: NRAES@cornell.edu

**Farm-Based Composting: Manure & More** (NRAES-150) This 38-minute video highlights 14 farm operations and six different composting technologies from low to high technology. Special emphasis is placed on equipment that is already found on farms and retrofitted to perform compost tasks. Compost specific equipment, rent/lease equipment and high tech compost operations are also featured. This video can be used in its entirety or as short individual case studies.

**Farm Waste Management Makes Sense** (NRAES-111) This video provides an overview of serious economic questions about agricultural waste disposal and offers suggestions for effective waste management.

**Field Guide To On-Farm Composting** (NRAES-114) This book will help assist in day-to-day compost system management and is intended as a companion to the On-Farm Compost Handbook (NRAES-54).

**On-Farm Compost Handbook** (NRAES-54) Contains everything you ever wanted to know about on-farm composting: why, what and how to compost and what to do if something goes wrong. It is also used as a college textbook.



20-Minute Video Produced By  
Jean Bonhotal  
Cornell Waste Management Institute

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- Cornell Cooperative Extension
  - Empire State Development, Environmental Services Unit, Environmental Investment Program
  - North Country Agricultural Development Project
  - American Association of Meat Processors

Directed by: Insights International

# Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality & Butcher Waste

*For More Information:*

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Rice Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853  
Phone: 607/255-1187 Fax: 607/255-8207  
Email: cwmi@cornell.edu  
Web: www.cfe.cornell.edu/wmi/

*Related Resources:*

[www.cfe.cornell.edu/wmi/Composting.html](http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/wmi/Composting.html)

## **Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality & Butcher Waste**

A fact sheet on carcass and butcher waste composting. It includes the process, cautions, problems, biosecurity issues, economics and more.

## **Compost Marketing and Labeling**

Results of a survey conducted in 2000 by the Cornell Waste Management Institute with the goal to help insure that compost products made and sold meet user needs.

## **Co-Composter Model**

An Excel spreadsheet for the planning of composting systems for dairy manure and other organic wastes.

## **Compost Survey Map Database**

Searchable maps and database for compost facilities throughout New York State

## **Compost...because a rind is a terrible thing to waste!**

Manual and two videos designed to help implement food scrap composting for businesses and institutions.

## **Cornell Composting Web Site**

[www.cfe.cornell.edu/compost/](http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/compost/)

## *About CWMI*

The Cornell Waste Management Institute (CWMI), a program of the Center for the Environment, was established in 1987. CWMI identifies and addresses environmental problems associated with waste management by focusing University resources on this pressing issue. Through research, outreach and teaching activities, CWMI staff and affiliated researchers, educators, and stakeholders work together developing both technical and policy solutions to waste management problems.

CWMI's educational resource list can be viewed at: <http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/wmi/Edresources.html>. To be placed on our mailing list, contact us at 100 Rice Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853; 607/255-1187 or cwmi@cornell.edu.

This 20-minute video describes mortality and butcher residual composting featuring eight operations.

Dairy/livestock farmers and custom butchers are finding it increasingly difficult to dispose of their animal mortalities and residual waste in a safe, economical fashion. Due to the fluctuation of hide prices, tallow, meat and other products, many small rendering operations have been forced to close and those that haven't charge for pickup. Farmers and butchers in more isolated areas may not have access to these services at all.

With disposal costs in 2002 ranging up to \$70 per cow, \$200/horse, \$60/pig and \$20/barrel of butcher residuals, options are desperately needed. With such high costs, butchers and livestock operations are looking for ways to reduce their overhead and become more productive.

Mortality and butcher waste composting is quickly proving itself to be an effective, economical and environmentally sound alternative. The process reduces odors and pathogens and can easily be done with typical farm equipment.

*To Order:*

## *Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality & Butcher Waste*

*NRAES #163*

*Contact:*

NRAES - Cornell University  
152 Riley-Robb Hall  
Cooperative Extension  
Ithaca, NY 14853

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Cost: \$20

## *Special Thanks To:*

### *Operations Highlighted in Order of Appearance*

Ken Mosher • *Hidden Valley Farm*  
Chris Wilson • *Wilson Beef Farms*  
Daniel Brey • *Brey's Poultry Farm*  
Margaret Clarke • *Grace Farms*  
Randy Canfield • *Lazy Gate Farms*  
Dale Beaver • *Beaver Dairy Farm*  
Will Ober • *Paleontological Research Institute*