Evaluation Requested:  **How Are You Managing Livestock Mortality**

Sustainable livestock mortality management is a critical issue for livestock and poultry operators to maintain healthy and productive farms. Issues have developed that restrict producers’ management options. Composting is a viable alternative.

The composting process is described as follows:
- Select site that is well drained, at least 200 feet from water courses, sinkholes, seasonal seeps or other landscape features that indicate the area is hydrologically sensitive.
- Lay an 18-inch deep bed of coarse compost material (mix of dry heifer manure or dry horse bedding with waste feed, in a ration of 4:1) 10-12-feet wide and as long as space permits if creating a windrow.
- Center the animal on the pile or windrow so that the carcass will be completely covered with 24” of compost material. The finished pile or section should be 5-6 feet high. Make sure carcass is well covered with compost material to control odors, insulate the pile and keep vermin or other unwanted animals out of the windrow.
- Let pile set for 4-6 months before land applying.

In order to ensure that mortality composting is carried out safely and effectively, 55 Agriculture Service Providers (ASP) across the Northeast SARE region were trained to teach mortality composting. In addition, over the past few years, we have been working to reach all interested parties with information in the form of web-based materials, demonstrations and workshops. As a result, many farmers have implemented composting as their carcass management practice. We would like to hear how you heard about mortality composting and how widely it is being used on your farm, in your veterinary practice, area or other related operation. Please click on this URL [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/carcasscompost](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/carcasscompost) and share your thoughts.