



# AEM Tier 2 Worksheet

## Waste Disposal

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### Glossary

**Compost:** Composting is a biological process in which microorganisms convert organic materials into a soil-like material. As a method of dead animal disposal, a properly-sited and constructed compost pile offers an environmentally sound and easily managed way of handling this issue on farms.

**Secondary Containment:** A back-up containment area in the event of a leak or spill. For example, a structure with a concrete floor and curbs in which containers of a material are stored.

**Waterbody:** A lake, reservoir, pond, river, continuously-flowing stream, continuously-flowing spring, wetland, estuary or bay.

**Watercourse:** Water flowing over a non-vegetated channel to a waterbody.

### Background

Numerous products such as pesticides, cleaners, solvents, oils, batteries, plastics, tires, etc. are used on farms. Proper reuse, recycling or disposal of these items is necessary to ensure a clean and healthy environment and a safe drinking water supply for the farm, neighbors and community. Improper disposal may be detrimental to the quality of surface and groundwater, soil and air resources, neighbor relations, in addition to being illegal.

Proper disposal of normal animal mortality is also critical to reducing contamination risks to surface and ground water, and avoiding biosecurity risks.

Proper reuse, recycling and disposal practices used on the farm can save landfill space, reduce costs, and protect fish, wildlife and human health.

### AEM Principle:

Farmers should take precautions to prevent chemical leaks and spills, and properly recycle or reuse wastes on the farm. In addition, they should ensure that waste products which cannot be recycled, such as chemical containers, are properly disposed of off the farm.

AEM Tier 2 Worksheet: Waste Disposal		Potential Concern		
Factors Needing Assessment:	Lower 1	2	3	Higher 4
<b>How are dead animals disposed of?</b>  * Non catastrophic mortalities only.	Picked up by rendering company within 48 hours after death.	Properly composted on the farm in an appropriate location.	Buried 6 ft. deep in appropriate soils. <b>AND</b> Buried more than 200 ft. from a waterbody, watercourse, well or spring.	Carcasses left outside for scavengers, or to decay. <b>OR</b> Inappropriate composting <b>OR</b> Inappropriate burial
<b>Where is the location of the mortality management area in relation to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterbodies?</li> <li>• Floodplain?</li> <li>• Groundwater resources?</li> <li>• Neighbors?</li> </ul>				
<b>Is there clean water exclusion from the management area?</b>				
<b>If composting mortalities, is leachate produced?</b>				
<b>Are there odors or visual concerns from the composting site?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If yes, is there at least 2ft. of clearance between dead animals? Are proper materials (high carbon, old silage, dry sawdust, or dry stall bedding) used in adequate amounts (2ft. or more surrounding animal)?</li> </ul>				
<b>Is there a shop drain?</b> What has the potential to go in it? Where does it outlet?				

AEM Tier 2 Worksheet: Waste Disposal		<b>Potential Concern</b>		
<b>Factors Needing Assessment:</b>	Lower 1	2	3	Higher 4
<b>What is done with waste lubricants?</b>	Stored in protected area on impervious surface with secondary containment until recycled off the farm.	Stored in protected area on impervious surface with secondary containment and properly reused on farm.		Disposed of on farm or stored indefinitely.
<b>How are unwanted or banned pesticides disposed of? (See Pesticide Storage, Mixing, and Loading Worksheet)</b>				
<b>How are plastic containers from oil products handled?</b>	Products are used up and containers recycled. <b>OR</b> Empty containers are taken to a licensed landfill or municipal incinerator.		Mixed with regular trash and sent to a municipal landfill.	Empty or partially-filled containers are disposed of on the farm.
<b>What is done with old lead acid batteries?</b>	Exchanged when new batteries are purchased.		Mixed with regular trash and sent to a municipal landfill.	Disposal or stockpiled on farm.
<b>What is done with old farm tires?</b>	Cut and re-used on farm; <b>OR</b> Taken to a recycling depot; <b>OR</b> Disposed of at a licensed landfill site; <b>OR</b> Exchanged when replaced.	Re-used on farm.		Dumped or burned on farm.
<b>What is done with used ag plastics? (e.g bale wrap, silage bags, plastic mulch)</b>	Baled and taken to a recycling facility.	Taken to a licensed landfill.		Dumped, buried or burned on the farm.

<p><b>Are products such as veterinary/medical waste, fertilizer bags, paints and solvents a problem on the farm?</b></p>	
<p><b>Is there a farm dump or an historic farm dump?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If so, where is it located?</li> <li>• Is it active or historical?</li> <li>• What has been put into it?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Is open burning practiced on the farm?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is burned?</li> </ul>	
<p>Benefits to other resources can also be possible while working toward improved water quality. Taking stock of how existing and future management affect <b>soil, water, air, plants, animals, energy, greenhouse gases, people, and economics</b> can result in more effective plans and additional benefits to farms and communities both now and into the future.</p> <p><b>Additional Comments:</b></p>	