



Regulations for disposal of poultry waste for Onsite Mobile Processing Units: Wisconsin

Mobile Processing Waste

Waste streams from mobile poultry processing units include:

- wastewater generated from scalding, rinsing and cooling of the birds;
- solid material such as the feathers, heads, feet and entrails.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulates the disposal of livestock processing waste as a "solid waste."¹

Protecting water resources and human health as well as preventing nuisance conditions are the primary goals of Wisconsin's regulations. On-farm management of relatively small quantities of processing waste is preferred by producers and regulators alike.

Landspreading

In Wisconsin, poultry processing waste can be managed by landspreading the material on agricultural fields for use as a soil conditioner or fertilizer as allowed for in Wisconsin Administrative Code.²

The landspreading must be done in accordance with accepted agricultural practices and in a nuisance free manner. Along with avoiding nuisance, special attention must be given to preventing contamination of water resources. Maintaining adequate separation distances from neighbors and water resources can help accomplish this.

Additionally, in the months of April to November, any waste material that is landspread on fields must be incorporated into the soil within 24 hours, as is required by Wisconsin State Statute. In the remaining months of the year, the material must be incorporated within 48 hours.³

AQ What is a Mobile Processing Unit?

Also referred to as Mobile Slaughter Units, MPU's are either an open or closed trailer structure towed behind a vehicle where animal meat processing can take place in various locations, often on the farm of origin where the animals were raised. The units often contain all the necessary components to complete animal slaughter and processing similar to fixed units, but on a smaller scale and in various locations. Producers who do not process large volumes of animals or do not want to transport animals off farm may use an MPU. MPU's are operated by the producer or by trained individuals who contract their processing unit and services to the producer.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

MPU processing waste has the potential to contaminate water resources, pose a risk to human health and the environment or create nuisances if not properly managed. On the farm management of relatively small quantities of processing waste is preferred by the producer and regulators alike. Maintaining adequate separation distances from water resources and neighbors can help avoid problems.

Detailed information regarding the regulations that apply to poultry processing waste from mobile units can be found by contacting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Waste and Materials Management Program by phone at (608) 266-2111 or by email at DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov.

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Composting

If landspreading is not a viable option, composting may be. Wisconsin DNR encourages those who wish to compost to seek technical assistance with:

- UW Extension's Solid and Hazardous Education Center
[\[http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/programAreas/programInfo.cfm?programId=7\]](http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/programAreas/programInfo.cfm?programId=7)
- or your local DNR officials
[\[http://dnr.wi.gov/staffdir/_newsearch/contactsearchext.aspx?exp=recycling+requirements\]](http://dnr.wi.gov/staffdir/_newsearch/contactsearchext.aspx?exp=recycling+requirements).

On-farm composting facilities do not need to be licensed provided they meet established performance and operational standards.⁴ It is expected that only compostable materials generated on the farm or an adjacent farm would be used in the compost operation and that the composted material would be spread on agricultural fields.

Performance standards⁵ are intended to protect water and other sensitive resources. Maintaining adequate separation distances from wetlands, surface water and groundwater will likely address these concerns.

Following the minimal operational standards⁶ and design standards⁷ in DNR rules is also required. The producer is encouraged to reference these rules directly, or contact their local DNR representative for assistance as the rules include considerable detail.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Waste and Materials Management Program
(608) 266-2111
DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov

REGULATIONS CITED

¹ Wisconsin Statutes s. 289.01(33) stats. Definitions. "Solid Waste"
<http://docs.legis.wi.gov/statutes/statutes/289/01/33>

² Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 518.04 Exemptions.
http://docs.legis.wi.gov/code/admin_code/nr/518/04

³ Wisconsin Statutes s. 95.50(3) stats. Timely disposition of carcasses.
<http://docs.legis.wi.gov/statutes/statutes/95/50/3>

⁴ Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 502.12(5) Limited exemption for on site farm animal carcass composing facilities.
http://docs.legis.wi.gov/code/admin_code/nr/502/12/5

⁵ Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 502.04(1) Performance Standards
http://docs.legis.wi.gov/code/admin_code/nr/502/04/1

⁶ Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 502.12(10) Minimum operational standards for composting facilities.
http://docs.legis.wi.gov/code/admin_code/nr/502/12/10

⁷ Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 502.12(11) Minimum design standards for composting facilities.
http://docs.legis.wi.gov/code/admin_code/nr/502/12/11

This information was assembled by Mike Degen, who enjoyed a 30 year career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources providing technical assistance, compliance assurance and regulatory oversight in a variety of environmental programs including wastewater, drinking and groundwater, surface water quality, solid and hazardous waste management and environmental cleanup. His most recent work was in the agricultural runoff program, promoting clean water practices on the farm.