

4 Easy Steps for Composting Dead Livestock

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Material

- **Base material:** straw, old hay, coarse crop residues (corn stalks)
- **Bulking material:** manure or spoiled fermented feedstuffs
- **Cover material:** straw, old hay, sawdust



Step 1

Place 2 feet of base material in pile or long row, depending on number of dead livestock to be composted.



Step 2

Lay dead livestock on top of base. Have at least 1 foot of base material between perimeter of dead livestock and edge of base.

Step 3

Cover dead livestock with 8 to 10 inches of bulking material.



Step 4

Cover the entire pile or long row with 2 feet of cover material.



Things To Remember

- Small-sized dead livestock can be layered next to or stacked on top of one another given there is bulking material between them so they are not touching.
 - If composting ruminants, puncture the rumen to prevent it from exploding.
- Make sure pile always has sufficient cover material to keep bulking material and dead livestock covered.
- Turn pile every six months from early spring to late fall.
- To accelerate composting, turn pile every two months from early spring to late fall.
- Existing compost can be used to cover new piles or long rows.
 - Screen/sort any remaining bones out of the compost before spreading to prevent puncturing equipment tires.

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