



FACT SHEET 7.8

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Depending on your specific hobby farm activities, you could produce a variety of solid wastes that will require disposal or recycling. Solid waste is often comprised of discarded materials including household trash, building debris, paper, plastic, glass, food waste, yard waste, animal waste and scrap material but does not include hazardous materials waste that require special disposal. The proper storage, handling and recycling of solid waste is important to prevent the transport of contaminants to water resources.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many communities have free recycling programs. Check with your community to see what waste materials you can recycle such as paper and cardboard, building materials, scrap metal, plastic, glass and appliances. Many recycling centers also accept certain universal waste such as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and mercury containing items like thermometers.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SHOULD ALWAYS BEGIN WITH THE THREE R'S - REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE.

By reducing, reusing and recycling you can significantly lower the volume of solid waste you need to manage on your hobby farm.

There are several types of solid waste including:

- **Organic Waste** - any waste that will decompose naturally. Organic waste often may be composted or reused, such as animal manure or yard and garden waste.
- **Recyclables** - any materials that can be separated and recycled like metal, paper and plastic.
- **Municipal Solid Waste** - includes household trash and other non-hazardous waste that is not organic and cannot be recycled.

RECYCLE

Consider composting your yard and garden waste along with manure generated from farm animals. This compost can be highly sought after by gardeners as a soil amendment since it can be high in nutrients and organic matter. Visit www.howtocompost.org for more information on composting or see Fact Sheets 4.7 and 5.5.



MANAGING SOLID WASTE

Consider the following steps when managing solid waste:

- All waste management areas, including dumpsters, should be located on a flat, paved surface and away from storm drains and water resources.
- Dumpster and waste receptacles should be leak-tight with lids to keep precipitation out.
- Consider using animal proof receptacles to prevent animals such as raccoons, squirrels, dogs and other critters from entering your trash and making a mess.
- If there is unavoidable leakage, either place the container in an enclosed area or construct a berm around it to contain the leakage. Leaking material from dumpsters and waste receptacles may contain pollutants that should be prevented from reaching soils and surface waters.
- Solid waste not in containers should be covered. Acceptable coverage includes plastic tarps and building overhangs.
- Prevent stormwater runoff from other parts of the hobby farm from entering your solid waste management area by enclosing the area or building a berm.
- Take special care when loading or unloading solid waste to minimize spills. Clean up spills immediately when they occur.
- Ensure that only appropriate solid wastes are added to the solid waste container. Certain wastes such as hazardous wastes, appliances, fluorescent lamps, pesticides, batteries, etc. may not be disposed of in solid waste containers. Always check with your municipality or solid waste disposal company.

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Regularly perform the following to ensure proper solid waste management:

- Sweep and clean your solid waste storage area regularly.
- Inspect solid waste containers for structural damage or leaks regularly. Repair or replace damaged containers as necessary.
- Regularly recycle or dispose of unused scrap/junk materials.



WATER QUALITY BENEFIT

A sound solid waste management plan can help you maintain good storage practices, minimize disposal costs and maximize recycling opportunities, while preventing waste material from entering nearby storm drain systems and surface waters.