

LIVESTOCK PREDATION PREVENTION PROJECT (LPPP)

PREDATOR MITIGATION WITH DEADSTOCK COMPOSTING



mbbeef.ca | 204-772-4542

Livestock predators live in constant search of food sources, and pastures that have no available food to scavenge will have less appeal to predators.

The establishment of deadstock composting corrals via this project is intended to reduce interactions between livestock and wildlife. Animal carcasses should be removed from the general herd population and cleanly disposed of through methods such as composting within a compost heap of straw, hay, or sawdust, with the intent of no scavenged material being available to predators or scavenger birds. This in turn will provide no food to the predators, and a reduced reason for frequenting pastures.

Benefits of Composting Deadstock

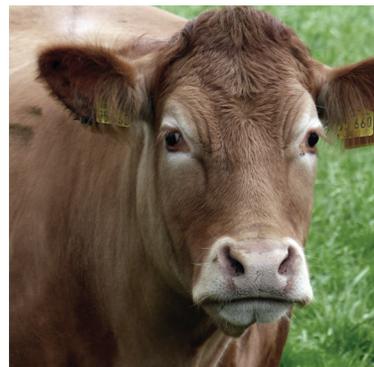
- Limit pathogen transfer from the carcass to the herd/flock.
- Replace the need to haul mortalities and potentially spread pathogens.
- Will limit movement of scavenged materials carried by canines or bears.
- Reduce interest by scavengers or birds.
- Reduce predator traffic through pasture.
- Reduce likelihood of predator dens on your pasture.

Why Would Composting Reduce Predator Interactions?

Livestock scavengers are very opportunistic. Any chance to receive a meal from a carcass is an invitation to return for a second meal. Carcasses which are not properly disposed of attract birds and the sight of soaring, circling birds is a message that there is food available for



predators. While it seems logical that a predator can no longer harm a deceased animal, the problem may extend for days, weeks, months, and possibly years after the initial carcass scavenging. Animals will frequent areas where they have received a past meal, and this is an interaction problem. A predator resting from a past meal is also observing the remainder of the livestock. Upon discovery of a vulnerable animal the predator will wait, or frequent the site waiting for the moment of death, or a point where taking down the animal will be easy. Pastures which do not provide any resultant meals will be less frequented, and vulnerable animals will have more time to recover before a next exploration by predators. For example, a calf which is slowed down by a minor bout of pneumonia or foot rot will be at risk for several days during treatment, and be under continuous scrutiny by predators. However, under a similar scenario on a pasture where predators rarely travel, the animal may be recovered from by the time the predator returns and less vulnerable.



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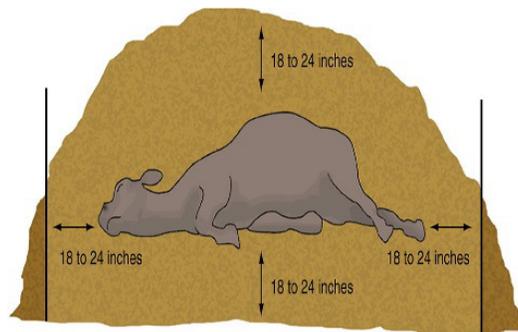
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Compost Pen Project Guidelines

1. The pen will be built with a predator resistant gate structure which will close tightly to try to stop canine or bear intrusion. Tight mesh, and tight gate gaps will be achieved through welded steel gates and dig-proof bases to hold back predators.
2. Fence will be built with mesh fencing buried into the soil to reduce digging and designed for 5' height to resist jumping.
3. Pens will be designed to be 64' x 64' feet or 4,000 square feet with adequate room to move and manipulate the compost pile or add as needed.
4. Pens can be availed with game cameras to record or notify operator of predator attention/ challenges.
5. Pens can be located in proximity to home base or pastures depending on where greater risk exists.
6. Labour and machinery will be provided and pens will be built with consistent quality control.
7. Composting pens should be located on a high point with no chance of flooding, be located away from water sources, property lines and away from areas where livestock congregate.
8. Producer is expected to provide their own composting materials such as straw, hay or sawdust as a media and a carbon source for the composting process. Well-managed compost pens can be clean and nearly odor free.



Cost of Setup

Producers will be responsible for part of the cost of the pen materials, but costs for delivery and building of the pen will be covered by the project. The assets provided will remain the property of the co-operator once the project is complete

At the completion of the Livestock Predator Prevention Project a report will be written to help guide producers to the most effective predator reduction practices.

For more information of the Livestock Predator Prevention Project and other Risk Mitigation Practices please visit <https://mbbeef.ca/>



CONTACT

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