

## **HAZARD REDUCTION FOR WORKERS COLLECTING AND COMPOSTING ROAD-KILLED CARCASSES**

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Composting is being investigated by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) as a tool for managing road-killed animals in New York State, particularly white-tailed deer. This presentation would present a recommended protocol for reduction of the hazards of tasks involved in the collection and composting of road-killed deer, including: carcass collection and transport, vehicle and tool maintenance, the composting process (pile set-up, take-down, screening), and subsequent compost use. This protocol will discuss:

- biological and other hazards which may be present in roadkilled deer and their expected survival or die-off during static pile carcass composting; routes of entry expected for worker exposure
- hazard reduction through a combination of engineering controls, personal protective equipment, and administrative controls (policy, work practices and procedures)
- issues to include in training workers engaged in these tasks
- considerations for vaccinations and their maintenance
- special groups of workers who may be at increased risk of illness or injury
- work practices for early response to potentially work-related infections

This protocol was developed as part of *Pathogen Analysis of NYSDOT Road-killed Deer Carcass Compost Facilities*, a project sponsored by the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and implemented by the Cornell Waste Management Institute (CWMI) for which the Cornell University – ILR/Workplace Health and Safety Program is a collaborator. The author is currently developing a similar protocol for protecting workers engaged in collection and composting of birds infected or potentially infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).