Use of Composting for Avian Influenza Response
• Composting has been used as part of AI outbreak response
  – Virginia 2002
  – Delmarva 2004
  – West Virginia 2007
  – British Columbia 2009
• Initial farm linked to NY LBM
• Two additional commercial production farms
  – ~328,000 birds
• Depopulated using CO$_2$ gassing
• In-house composting
  – Mix and pile procedure
• Composting used to protect dense poultry production region
• Two positive farms
  – ~20 farms within 3.2 km
  – ~160 farms within 9.7 km
• No additional positive farms in region
• Swab tests
  – Compost
  – Environment
  – Prior to turn
  – 1 week before removal
• All samples negative!
• Cost effective (~50% less)
• Could tie up houses as little as 10-14 days if moved outside the first turn
• Composting has become the most widely accepted method for disposal of routine and catastrophic mortality events in the USA.
• Composting an effective means of disposal and pathogen reduction.
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