

Via E-Mail
guardiolaj1@michigan.gov

July 20, 2023

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural
Development (Legal Affairs)
525 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Administrative Rules for Bodies of Dead Animals
Rule Set 2003-4 AC

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Michigan Allied Poultry Industries and our members, please accept these comments into the record for the above-referenced administrative rule amendments.

The spread of avian flu remains a serious threat to the poultry industry and to the public health of our state. Therefore, our comments are directed at ensuring affected farms have the ability to swiftly and effectively to depopulate infected flocks.

Overall, our industry is supportive of the proposed changes. However, it is important for the Director to retain authority to protect public health under emergency situations.

We recommend the following changes to the proposed rule (proposed additions in **bold**, *italics* and underlined):

(13)(g) Pieces of hide remaining at the completion of curing ~~shall~~ **must** be removed and added to a new active compost batch or shall be disposed of under section 21 of 1982 PA 239, MCL 287.671, before the compost may be sold, or transferred, or applied to crop land. ***In emergency composting situations, the Director may authorize the removal of unfinished compost to a new site.***

(16) ***Unless otherwise authorized by the Director,*** Composting dead animals ~~shall~~ **must** not be removed from the composting site, except as finished compost, unless the dead animal is disposed of in accordance with section 21 of 1982 PA 239, MCL 287.671.

July 20, 2023
Page 2

Both of these recommended changes are to allow the Director to act swiftly and effectively allowing prompt depopulation of a poultry farm infected with a strain of the avian flu.

We appreciate the opportunity offer these comments.

Very truly yours,

MICHIGAN ALLIED POULTRY INDUSTRIES

Nancy Barr, DVM