

FARM PRACTICES

FARMSTEAD REFUSE

Description

This farm practice refers to the disposal of farmstead refuse. All wastes created in British Columbia are subject to the *Waste Management Act*. It specifies how wastes may be stored, handled and disposed. Agricultural wastes handled as outlined in the *Agricultural Waste Control Regulation* and the *Code of Agricultural Practice for Waste Management* do not need a permit. Agricultural wastes includes manure, used mushroom medium and agricultural vegetation waste.

Some of the wastes produced on B.C. farms are not covered under the above regulation. For example, wastes generated by the on-farm processing, handling and sale of farm products are not considered to be “agricultural wastes” under the Act. These and other non-agricultural wastes are subject to the provisions of the *Waste Management Act*.

Wastes not considered as agricultural wastes that may be created on a farm include the following:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| plastic | plant pots, fertilizer, feed and silage bags, poly rope and twine, tarps, and barrels used to ship and store chemicals, oil, solvents, fertilizer and polyethylene from greenhouses |
| glass | jars, bottles, greenhouse windows |
| metal | agri-chemical containers, wire, packaging and construction materials |
| wood | sawdust, shavings, lumber, fence posts, pallets, and demolished structures |
| paper | fertilizer and chemical bags, wrapping |
| cardboard | boxes (waxed and unwaxed) |
| media | rock wool, peat, bark |

Activities and Operations

Waste Disposal

Below are guidelines for disposing of wastes produced on a farm:

- Where appropriate, every effort should be made to store, recycle and dispose of the waste in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Wastes should only be recycled if they are free of contaminants and are recycled by an approved facility.
- Composting should be done in accordance with the Farm Practice for Composting.
- Burning of waste should only be done in accordance with the *Waste Management Act*, the *Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation*, and local government bylaws.
- Solid wastes when landfilled should only be in an approved municipal solid waste landfill.

Veterinary Waste

Veterinary wastes must be disposed of in a safe manner as outlined in the “Agriculture and the Environment: Reference Handbook for Livestock Producers of BC.”

Related Farm Practices

Other farm practices that pertain to farmstead refuse include, but are not limited to, the following:

On Farm Processing

On farm processing wastes will need to be handled and disposed of following the *Waste Management Act*.

Non-Agricultural Waste

Use of non-agricultural waste derived from processes or recycling of municipal solid waste, industrial, commercial and institutional waste, or demolition and land clearing waste may require the issuance of a permit or approval under the *Waste Management Act*. If non-agricultural waste is applied to ALR lands approval from the Agricultural Land Commission may also be required.

Woodwaste

Woodwaste will need to be handled and disposed of following the *Waste Management Act*.

Legislation

Information on federal and provincial legislation can be found in Appendices B and C. Acts, regulations and bylaws that regulate or may affect farm refuse may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Provincial

Health Act – safeguards the health of British Columbians

Sanitary Regulations – controls wastes that might harm domestic water

Waste Management Act – protects environment (soil, water & air) from pollution

Agricultural Waste Control Regulation – allows a farmer to operate without a waste permit when disposing of agricultural wastes according to the *Code of Agricultural Practice for Waste Management*

Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation – minimum standard to follow when emitting smoke from burning

Return of Used Lubricating Oil Regulation – requires sellers of oil to take back used oil

Production and Use of Compost Regulation – minimum stand to follow when composting or using compost made from non-agricultural wastes

Special Waste Regulation – minimum stand for handing and disposal of ‘dangerous goods’ such as batteries waste oil or solvents and waste asbestos from buildings

Storage of Recyclable Material Regulation – specifies the manner, the maximum quantity and the maximum period of storage of material containing gypsum

Publications

Publications that provide information on farm refuse practices include, but are not limited to, the following (refer to Appendix D for details):

British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Reference Guide