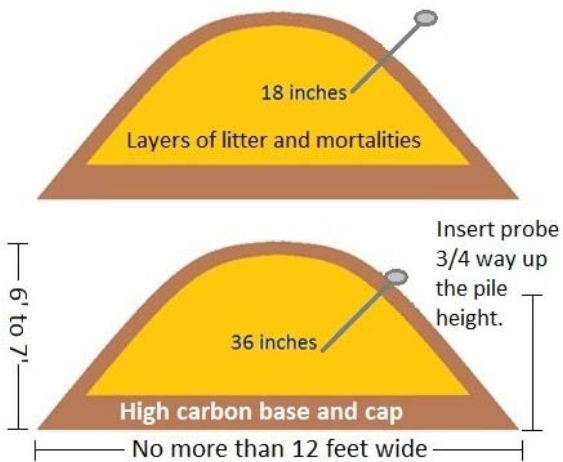


# MN HPAI 2015 RESPONSE

## COMPOST TEMPERATURE MONITORING PROCEDURE

Take the compost pile temperatures once per day in the morning. The pile may have up to ten flags. Take two temperatures at each flag, one at 18 inches and one at 36 inches. Place the thermometer probe about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up the pile at a 45 degree angle. For example, if the pile is six feet high, the thermometer should enter the pile about 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the floor and at a 45 degree angle to the floor. Check the units on the thermometer. The interval on a Reotemp thermometer is two degrees between a pair of lines. See the photo below.

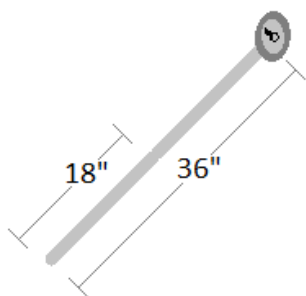
### INSTRUCTIONS



- Open the doors and curtains to all the houses containing compost piles to allow them to air out and maximize natural ventilation.
- **USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM.** Entering a barn with active compost or dead birds requires a two person team. See the fact sheets titled, "**Safety**" and "**Ammonia Safety in Enclosed Structures.**"
- Place the stem of the thermometer approximately 18 inches and then 36 inches into the compost pile  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up the pile at a 45 degree angle.
- Leave the thermometer at each depth and point for at

least 60 seconds.

- Log the reading from the thermometer from each flag and at both depths.
- After completing the house readings, close the doors and curtains.
- Calculate the average temperature for each pile and note it on the Composting Temperature Log.
- Disinfect the thermometer and return it to its protective case.
- Each thermometer will be kept at the respective premises being monitored. Do not take a thermometer from one premises to another premises.
- To kill the HPAI virus, the compost pile must generate and maintain temperatures above 110 degrees F for several days. The compost pile should reach these temperatures within a week after construction. The composting consultants will evaluate the temperatures and days for each compost pile before approval is granted to turn the pile at 14 days or to release it at 28 days. The pile must go through two heat cycles – one before turning and one after turning.



Take two temperature readings at each flag on the compost pile.

The lines on the Reotemp thermometer are in two degree increments. If the needle is on a mark, the temperature is an even number. If the needle is between two marks, the temperature is an odd number. This thermometer is reading 72 degrees not 66 degrees.

