

MINNESOTA HPAI 2015 RESPONSE  
COMPOST TEMPERATURE MONITORING PROCEDURE

## SAFETY

Composting materials within enclosed structures may contain harmful levels of air contaminants. Before entering the structure, maximize natural ventilation by opening the doors and curtains to all the houses containing compost piles. Allow enough time for the houses to air out before entering them. Close the doors and curtains after completing the temperature readings.

**USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM.** Entering a barn with active compost or dead birds requires a two person team. One person, with a cell phone, stays outside the house to monitor the person inside. Before anyone enters the barn, the monitor writes down the location so it can be given quickly to a 911 dispatcher in case of an emergency.

If the person inside is overcome, the monitor immediately calls 911 for assistance. Under no circumstances does the monitor enter the barn without Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Do anything possible to increase the ventilation inside the building while waiting for rescue personnel.

**We have measured high levels of ammonia in some barns. Please review the factsheet “Ammonia Safety in Enclosed Structures.”**