Project Title: C-04-01: Pathogen Analysis of Deer Carcass Compost Facilities

PIN: R020-63-881

Responsible Unit: Environmental Analysis Bureau

Project Manager: Kolb, Elisabeth

Project Goal:
Determine through formal sampling, testing and analysis, the nature of pathogen existence and composition in six NYSDOT roadkilled deer carcass compost facilities and to provide appropriate guidance, educational and technical materials.

Actions Proposed:
Through literature research, the contractor will determine the thermal stability characteristics of these pathogens (that were identified by faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell): Clostridium perfringens, Salmonella, fecal or total coliform, Listeria, Campylobacter, Yersina, Tularemia (deer, a select agent under the patriot act, very low infectious dose), Coxiella (bacteria, also a select agent, that can effect humans), TB (deer, not in NY), rabies (deer) and chronic wasting disease. The purpose is to determine whether, if present, these potentially deer-borne pathogens would be killed by the temperature/time regime of a well-managed compost pile.

Anticipated Work Products and Accomplishments:
Guidance will be developed by the contractor concerning the best management practices for managing the compost piles and for use of the compost based on the findings.

Proposed Budget: $269,055