

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 17, 1999

LB 870

at the composting process before they do the rules and regulations, in the year 2000. I think they need that opportunity, too. So the composting we do now, I think, will add to their knowledge when they do the rules and regulations.

SENATOR PREISTER: And do we...do we have some feedback about the successes, the rate of usage, what kinds of things have been happening where it is being done, in Canada and in Missouri?

SENATOR DIERKS: I don't think we have any feedback on that. It's a relatively new process. The only thing I can tell you is that with the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association they have come up with what they think are standards for doing this. And I'm presuming that they've picked these standards up from across the nation, and maybe even from Canada.

SENATOR PREISTER: Okay. In terms of some of the organisms, some of the bacteria, and we've talked some about the diseases, in the composting process then, as I understand it, I have more experience with plants than with animals in compost heaps, but there's a tremendous amount of heat that's generated. Is...and maybe you've said this, but is the organism that can create some problems destroyed in that heat process?

SENATOR DIERKS: That...that's the purpose of it. I'm not sure as far as...you know, I don't really know what the temperatures get to in a compost pile. I...I doubt that they get the same temperature in a rendering...that they get in a rendering plant, but I don't know that, I could be wrong. But the composting process in poultry, I know, does take care of bacteria and viruses, and it neutralizes them, they are no longer effective. So we know that happens with poultry. There are set out ways to do this composting. You lay your animals in there a certain way so that they don't touch each other and there are certain things you add to the pile as you go. It's a pretty well controlled environment, the composting pile. We had a hearing, a couple years ago, in the Ag Committee, or maybe we...might have been at a hearing process up in Bloomfield, I think. And they told us from that area about how composting works on chickens. I was surprised at most of it, but it worked very, very well. Takes about, as I recall, about 30 days for a chicken to totally decompose in a composting pile.