TTPA has had reports of two litter sheds catching on fire this week in TN. Shawn Hawkins at UT reminds every one of the following guidelines to best prevent spontaneous combustion from occurring:

- **Don't stack litter higher than 5 feet.**
  
  Litter self-insulates itself, which allows heat to build. Stacking litter at a more shallow depth helps to cut down on the building of heat. Also, if you stack litter too high then you are compacting the base (to push it up that high) which is not good and can contribute to fires.

- **Don't pile litter against the flammable wood structure of the barn.**

  This should be avoided altogether. Stack in the center of the shed and leave it shallow on the edges. Not only is the structure flammable, but stacking against the sidewalls places the litter where windblown rain can wet the litter and lead to spontaneous combustion.

- **Spontaneous combustion always begins with wet litter.**

  If the litter to be removed from the houses is wet, open up the barns and let them dry as much as you can. Then, later remove the litter to storage once it has dried. **New litter should be stacked away from previously stored litter that is drier, and do not mix it on top.**