

Livestock Disposal

In an emergency, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment may authorize temporary management practices in order to protect human health and the environment. These temporary practices may include procedures for the disposal of dead animals associated with the emergency conditions. The Colorado Department of Agriculture regulates carcass disposal. If you comply with the requirements below, you will be considered to be in compliance with regulations.

Landfill and Burial Requirements

- No dead animals shall be placed in any body of water, seasonal creek or pond.
- Surface water should be diverted from the pit utilizing an up-gradient diversion berm or other method.
- All dead animals must be buried at least 150 feet down gradient from any groundwater supply source.
- In no case should the bottom of the burial pit be closer than five feet to the groundwater table.
- Burial sites must be located more than one mile from any the residence of any person.

Note: When burying dead livestock, it is best to add a layer of lime or quicklime below and above a carcass to accelerate the decomposition process. Overuse of lime should be avoided. If lime or quicklime is not available, burial without it is acceptable. Avoid contacting human skin with lime or quicklime, which are caustic and can cause severe burns.

Other Disposal Options for Dead Animals

- Permitted landfills that will accept them.
- Rendering plants. (Only out-of-state options exist at this time.)
- Composting. Requires approval of a separate design and operations plan.

Other Best Management Practices

- Before burial or other disposition:
 - a. Arrange carcasses individually in rows and not on top of one another.
 - b. Locate carcasses in the shade and out of sunlight.
- Avoid burial sites with fractured or cavernous bedrock, highly permeable soils or seasonal high water tables.
- Do not bury more than 10 animals together to minimize potential nuisance conditions and impacts to ground water.