

CATASTROPHIC ANIMAL MORTALITY RESPONSE PLAN

Response procedures

Plan Date:	
Farm Name:	
Owner/Operator:	

- (1) **Stop** all other activities to deal with the emergency.
- (2) Owner/operator immediately **Contact Local Veterinarian**, Area Regulatory Veterinarian or County agent to notify them of the occurrence.
- (3) In the event of loss due to disease, owner/operator within 24 hours, **Notify** the State Veterinarian or the Federal Area Veterinarian in Charge.
- (4) If applicable, **Notify** the integrator to remove useable mortalities and remaining live animals.
- (5) **Notify** the individuals and agencies listed on the Emergency Contacts sheet.
- (6) If applicable, **Remove** mortalities from the production areas.
- (7) **Secure** any necessary permits prior to proceeding with the chosen method of disposal. (eg. if burial is chosen as the disposal method, a permit from a State Agency may be required prior to burial.)
- (8) **Dispose** of mortalities according to approved Federal and State methods.
- (9) **Record** date of catastrophic deaths, number of deaths, approximate weight of mortalities, and the disposal method. If a disposal pit was used, record the location of burial pit, size of pit, and depth of cover.

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Emergency Contacts and Farm Information

Plan Date:	
Farm Name:	
Owner/Operator:	
County:	
Physical Address of Facility:	
Directions to Facility:	
Emergency Contacts	
Local Veterinarian:	
On-Call Veterinarian:	
Integrator	
Other:	
Local Emergency Number:	
List of Agencies to notify within 24 hours	
State Animal Health Agency:	
State Veterinarian:	
Federal Area Veterinarian in Charge:	
Heavy Equipment Contractor	
for handling carcasses:	
for excavating burial pits:	
Composting Material Supplier:	
Incinerator:	
Landfill:	
Rendering Facility:	
Other (specify):	

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Disposal Options

Approved Site Specific Disposal Options
NATURAL DEATH / NATURAL DISASTER

Animal Type	Bury	Incinerate	Compost	Render	Landfill	Other, specify
Disposal Options Notes:						

Approved Site Specific Disposal Options
DEATH DUE TO DISEASE

Animal Type	Bury	Incinerate	Compost	Render	Landfill	Other, specify
Disposal Options Notes:						

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Site Specific Disposal Location(s) Map

- Map of emergency staging, composting and burial areas, as allowed
- Show ingress/egress routes
- Outline areas on imagery, include coordinates of area corners (boundaries) as appropriate
- Suggest including a map to the farm from a major highway

Draft

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Disposal Requirements

- Animal carcasses should be disposed of as soon as possible, within 48-72 hours.
- Any vehicles transporting carcasses must be: leak proof, covered, inspected, and permitted per State requirements.
- Establish traffic patterns to avoid crossing livestock pathways and feed lanes with mortality transport and emergency response traffic.
- On farm carcass collection, handling and disposal sites should be located:
 - As far away from neighboring dwellings and the poultry or livestock operation as site conditions allow.
 - Outside the 100 year floodplain; however if site restrictions require location within a floodplain, it shall be protected from inundation or damage from a 25 -year flood event.

Bury

Operators choosing to bury animals must select sites very carefully due to the high risk of ground-water contamination.

Burial pits or trenches and buried carcasses must:

- Maintain a minimum of two (2) feet above seasonal high water table.
- Maintain at least ten (10) feet vertical separation between carcasses and bedrock.
- Maintain a minimum of 900 feet from the nearest neighboring residence
- Maintain a minimum of 200 feet from a well, spring, or water course.
- Not be placed in sandy or gravelly soil types.
- Be covered immediately with enough soil to keep scavengers out (in most instances, three (3) feet is sufficient).
- Where possible and permitted by state law, mortality shall remain uncovered or lightly covered until bloating has occurred, or methods employed to reduce or eliminate bloating such as opening animal thoracic and abdominal cavities and viscera prior to placing required cover.
- Be of sufficient depth and volume to contain the mortality with a minimum of two (2) feet of soil cover.
- Width shall be a minimum of four (4) feet wide with length necessary to accommodate mortality. Lengths may be limited by soil suitability and slope.
- Pit bottoms shall be relatively level.
- If more than one pit is required, they shall be separated by a minimum of three (3) feet of undisturbed or compacted soil.
- Topsoil shall be retained to re-grade the disposal site after the ground has settled as the decay process is completed. Stockpiled soil shall be no closer than 20 feet from the edge of the burial pit.
- For pits that are four to five feet deep, a step or bench 18 inches wide and one foot deep will be dug around the perimeter of the main pit so the remaining vertical wall will not exceed four feet. For pits greater than five feet deep, the earthen wall shall be sloped back at 1 1/2 horizontal and 1 vertical or flatter.

- Remove or render inoperable all field tile (subsurface drains) within the operational area of the burial pit.
- The burial site shall be finish graded to slightly above natural ground elevation to accommodate settling.
- Vehicular traffic shall not be allowed within four feet of the pit edge.

Compost

The composting process and site must, at a minimum, meet the following:

- The owner of the compost facility shall have a written protocol for the operation containing at least the minimum steps listed below and instructing all employees to follow the protocol.
- A base of carbon source material is required. The carcasses or discarded animal parts and carbon material plus bulking agent are added in layers so that the carbon to nitrogen ratio is in the range of 20:1 to 40:1.
- The carcasses or discarded animal parts must be kept six (6) inches from the edges and sealed with carbon material each day.
- Cover dead animals in static piles or windrows with a minimum of 1 foot of carbon material or finished compost to discourage scavenging animals and minimize odors.
- Cover to protect from precipitation and prevent excessive moisture on the composting material, but if sawdust or other water-repelling material is used as the bulking agent, a cover may not be necessary.
- Provide an appropriate filter area or means for collecting contaminated runoff. The temperature must be taken and recorded on site daily. The compost temperature must reach a minimum of 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Approximately seven (7) to ten (10) days are needed in each heat cycle to process the carcasses and kill the pathogens. The temperature drop indicates the time to mix and move the compost. A minimum of two (2) heat cycles is required.
- The finished compost must not contain visible pieces of soft tissue and must be handled, stored, and used according to all other applicable rules.
- Located on sites with restricted percolation and a minimum of two feet between the bottom of the facility and the seasonal high water table unless special design features are incorporated that address seepage.

Incinerate

Incinerator must be:

To Be Completed

Render

Carcasses left at an off-site pickup point must be:

- Kept in an animal-proof, enclosed area.
- At least 200 yards from a neighbor's buildings.
- Picked up within 72 hours.
- If the enclosed area is refrigerated to less than 45 degrees Fahrenheit, the carcasses must be picked up within seven (7) days.