

# Emergency Animal Mortality Management

EQIP Funding available to help with safe disposal of livestock



## Assistance Available

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to livestock producers for animal mortality disposal, resulting from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## How to Apply

Producers facing livestock depopulation are encouraged to file the attached Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application (Form CCC-1200) with their local [NRCS field office](#). Applications are being accepted now.

Through EQIP, a producer can apply for a practice called Emergency Animal Mortality Management. In South Dakota, this practice includes three options that NRCS is offering for the proper disposal of animal carcasses:

Option	Unit	Payment Rate	
		Traditional	*HU
Burial	AU	\$74.28	\$89.14
Carcass Disposal Other than Burial, Incineration, Landfill or Render	AU	\$111.53	\$191.20
Incineration	AU	\$219.88	\$263.86
Disposal at SD Permitted Landfill or Render	Lbs.	\$.05	\$.06

*Conversion Factor: 1,000 lbs. = Animal Unit (AU)  
One Animal Unit = 80 Weaning Pigs; or 3.5 Market Hogs, or 2 Sows*

The producer is responsible for the proper disposal of animal mortalities by following requirements specific to each option.

Mortality sites at unpermitted operations and permitted operations must comply with the Animal Industry Board's requirements. Please contact the Animal Industry Board (<https://aib.sd.gov/>) at (605) 773-3321 for information about mortality composting and disposal. The Animal Industry Board is responsible for animal mortalities.

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*SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Permitted Operations:* For temporary mortality composting practices using manure or process wastewater in the process as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the producer must notify DENR in writing that they are planning to temporarily compost mortalities and identify the location of the temporary composting site. Please notify by e-mail [Kent.Woodmansey@state.sd.us](mailto:Kent.Woodmansey@state.sd.us) or call DENR at (605) 773-4609 for guidance.

Refer to the South Dakota Animal Industry Board (AIB) guidance documents for details of animal disposal options and procedures at <https://aib.sd.gov/>.

The NRCS Emergency Animal Mortality Guidance Sheet on our Web site follows AIB guidance for animal disposal requirements and can be found at [www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov) > [Technical Resources](#) > [Animal Management](#).

## Eligibility

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands. For eligibility requirements, an application and approved early start waiver must be filed with the local NRCS office.

### Other program information:

- To receive assistance, producers must have **both** an application and an approved early start waiver filed at the local NRCS office prior to disposal of animal carcasses.
- Financial assistance is limited and not all applications will be funded.
- Prior to payment, NRCS Job Sheet SD-JS-368 must be completed, signed, and returned to the local NRCS Field Office.
- Payment cap is \$25,000 per eligible applicant per batching period.
- \*Historically Underserved (HU) producers, including socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian Tribes and beginning farmers/veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Through EQIP, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and energy usage on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

While not designed to be an emergency response program, EQIP can play a vital role in assisting producers recovering from disasters.

For more information about carcass disposal, see Emergency Animal Mortality Management ([NRCS Practice Code 368](#)).

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