

How to Apply for NRCS's Emergency Animal Mortality Program



Be prepared before making Emergency Animal Management decisions. Producers facing poultry and livestock depopulation as a result of COVID-19 impacts are encouraged to apply for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with their local NRCS field office. Applications are being accepted now.

Step 1:

- **CONTACT** your local NRCS staff. A printable directory with all offices, employee names, and phone numbers can be found at: www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov > "Contact Us."

Step 2:

- **VERY IMPORTANT: Sign an application form and submit an early start waiver request with NRCS before taking action.** We will provide you with an application (Form CCC-1200) for the EQIP Program and an Early Start Waiver. Make sure this step is completed before initiating any action.

NRCS will provide a prompt response to the early start waiver within two business days. Also, if earth movement occurs, contact PA OneCall to locate buried utilities prior to excavation at (800)242-1776 or dial 811.

- Detailed information for Emergency Animal Mortality Management through the USDA's EQIP Program can be found at www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/TechnicalResources/EmergencyAnimalMortalityManagement.

Step 3:

- **Do you already have a catastrophic mortality plan?** If yes, then, move to Step 4. If you do not already have a catastrophic mortality plan, contact a PDA Veterinarian. If using burial or incineration, contact the PA Department of Environmental Protection to assist you with locating or evaluating a potential site for burial, incineration, or composting.

- To reach a DEP regional office, go to <https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Pages/Office-Locations.aspx>.
- To reach the PDA Veterinary Office, contact PDA Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services for more information and instructions at 717-772-2852.
- To reach the NRCS Office in your area, go to: <https://offices.usda.gov>. Site selection criteria is available from the NRCS Web Soil Survey (www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov) under Suitabilities and Limitations for Use/Disaster Recovery Plan. NRCS guidance for the practice of Emergency Animal Mortality Management follows APHIS guidelines.

Step 4:

- Provide necessary Step 3 documentation to NRCS. NRCS will evaluate whether the site or the practice impacts cultural resources or historic preservation sites.

Step 5:

- Dispose of Emergency Animal Management Mortalities according to the NRCS Job Sheet.

Step 6:

- Document Emergency Management actions and record animal numbers, site locations, and disposal method on Job Sheet for documenting the practice; submit to your local NRCS office once completed.

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