

Emergency Animal Mortality Management

EQIP Funding available to help with safe disposal of poultry & livestock



Assistance Available

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

How to Apply

To apply file an EQIP application (Form CCC-1200) and an early start waiver request to your local NRCS field office.

Through EQIP, a producer can apply for a practice called Emergency Animal Mortality Management. In Pennsylvania, options for the proper disposal of animal carcasses include:

Option	Unit	Payment Rate
Disposal at PA Permitted Landfill or Render	Lbs.	\$0.05
Carcass Disposal Other than Burial, Incineration, Landfill or Render (for example, outside composting)	AU**	\$111.53
Burial *	AU	\$78.95
In-house Compost	AU	\$76.88

* Requires on-site soils investigation by an NRCS Soil Scientist and cultural resources clearance along with other clearances from [PA DEP](#). For incineration, PA DEP clearance is required. For all options, PDA Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostics listed in this fact sheet.

**AU= 1,000 lbs

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 Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Health requirements as

per the PA Domestic Animals Act's. For catastrophic mortalities (whole herd/flock, etc.), please call the PDA Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services for more information and instructions at 717-772-2852.

Once mortality compost is ready to be used as a fertilizer product, it is considered a nutrient and must be applied according to recommendations in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or Manure Management Plan (MMP). Depending on the amount of mortality compost and if the operation already had planned for mortality compost, an NMP or MMP update or amendment may be needed.

The NRCS Emergency Animal Mortality Standard (368) can be found in Section IV of the FOTG - <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/details>.

Eligibility

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm 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 PA Job Sheet (PAJS368) must be completed, signed, and returned to the local NRCS Field Office.
- Payment cap is \$25,000 per eligible event.
- [*Historically Underserved](#) (HU) producers, including socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, 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 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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