

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368)

A means or method for the management of animal carcasses from catastrophic mortality events.

Practice Information

Emergency animal mortality management is applied to reduce the impacts to surface and groundwater resources, reduce the impacts of odors, and decrease the spread of pathogens associated with catastrophic animal mortality.

The on-farm methods for emergency disposal of catastrophic animal mortality are burial, composting, incineration/gasification and open-air burning. Emergency mortality can also be rendered off-site or disposed of at a Subtitle D landfill. Catastrophic mortality may be held in refrigeration units prior to disposal. Because of the large number of dead animals normally encountered in a catastrophic mortality situation, if refrigeration is used, it is likely that multiple units will be needed

Design information for this practice includes site location, design sizing, soil and foundation assessments, and safety/biosecurity features.

Operation requirements for the facility depend on the type of disposal method chosen by the producer and will include provisions for proper disposal of residual material. Maintenance of mechanical



disposal equipment during emergency disposal is needed to ensure that the equipment operates as designed.

Common Associated Practices

Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368) is commonly applied with practices such as Diversion (362), and Critical Area Planting (342). Disposal of composted material and by-products from incineration or gasification will be performed in accordance with the Nutrient Management (590) practice.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.