

Disposal of Animal Carcasses in Emergency Circumstances

The disposal options for dead animals in emergency circumstances are as follows (in order of preference):

1. Rendering plant
2. Licensed landfill
3. Burial on farm lands
4. Composting of carcasses (DNR approval required)

If the dead animals are buried on farmlands, every attempt should be made to bury the animals in an upland area away from surface water bodies and above the groundwater table to minimize the potential for contaminating the water. Disposal pits or trenches should be a minimum of 1,200 feet away from private or public water supply wells and 1,000 feet away from surface waters and other sensitive areas.

The carcasses should be buried in pits or trenches (usually easier for placement) that allow for at least 2 feet of soil cover over top of the carcasses. The carcasses should be placed in a single layer in the bottom of the pit/trench and then covered with barn lime and the 2 foot soil layer. This should help the decomposition of the carcasses and keep other animals from digging them back up. The cover soil should be sloped to divert surface water away from the burial area and topsoiled, seeded, and fertilized as soon as possible to maintain a healthy vegetative cover.

This guidance generally conforms to DATCP rules and policies. If there are any questions regarding the DATCP regulations or policies, please contact DATCP staff directly at (608)224-4872.

Questions can also be directed to Deb Pingel, WDNR at 715/359-4531.

(See [State Statute s. 95.50, Disposition of Carcasses](#), as regulated by Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection)