

Emergency Animal Mortality Management

Funding available to help with safe disposal of carcasses



Assistance Available

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to livestock and poultry producers for animal mortality disposal, resulting from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistance for the Emergency Animal Mortality Management practice is available in all states. Learn more at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

How to Apply

Producers facing livestock and poultry depopulation are encouraged to file an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application ([Form NRCS-CPA-1200](#)) with their local [NRCS field office](#). Offices are now accepting applications.

The Emergency Animal Mortality Management practice includes seven options that NRCS is offering for the proper disposal of animal carcasses:

Option	Payment Unit	Payment Rate	
		Traditional	*HU
Disposal at Landfill or Render	Pounds	\$0.05	\$0.06
In-house Composting ¹	AU	\$76.88	\$92.25
Composting-Purchase Carbon Material and Mobilize Equipment ¹	AU	\$162.12	\$277.93
Carcass Disposal Other ¹	AU	\$111.53	\$191.20
Shallow Burial Hooved Animals	AU	\$128.73	\$154.48
Incineration	AU	\$219.88	\$263.86
Burial	AU	\$74.28	\$89.14

¹ – Costs of materials, equipment, and mobilization are highly variable. Actual costs may be significantly different from payment rates.

Conversion Factor: 1,000 lbs. = Animal Unit (AU)



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

The producer is responsible for the proper disposal of animal mortality by following requirements specific for each option. All Federal, State and Local laws must be followed, and it is the responsibility of the producer to secure any necessary permits.

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.

To receive assistance, a producer must file **both** an application and approved early start waiver request with the local NRCS field office prior to disposal of animal carcasses.

Other program information:

- Producers must have farm records established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), meet all eligibility requirements, and have an application filed at the local NRCS.
- Prior to payment, a livestock or poultry mortality certification is required by a veterinarian or animal health specialist.
- There are payment limitations. Contact your local NRCS field office for more details.

**Historically Underserved (HU) producers, including socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes, beginning farmers and ranchers, and qualifying veteran farmers and ranchers 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. Financial assistance is limited and not all applications will be funded.

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, refer to Emergency Animal Mortality Management ([NRCS Practice Code 368](#)).

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