



May 2020

Emergency Livestock Mortality

IA NRCS has funding available to help with safe disposal of livestock

Assistance Available

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

How to Apply

Producers facing livestock depopulation are encouraged to file the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application (Form CCC-1200) with their local NRCS field office. Applications are being accepted now. Through EQIP, a producer can apply for a practice called Emergency Animal Mortality Management (Standard 368). In Iowa, NRCS is offering incentives for burial, composting, incineration, or landfilling/rendering of animal mortalities.

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

required for each option through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Refer to the Iowa DNR Mass Animal Mortality Plan for more details about disposal options and procedures.

Eligibility

Agricultural producers and owners of nonindustrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, nonindustrial private forestland and other farm or ranch 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, a swine mortality certification is required by a veterinarian or animal health specialist.
- Payment cap is \$25,000 per eligible applicant.
- *Historically Underserved (HU) producers, including socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and beginning farmers/veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate.



Figure 1: COVID-19 resources are available for livestock producers. The [Iowa Beef Center](#) and [Iowa Pork Industry Center](#) have resources available for producers dealing with disrupted flow of animals to packing plants.

The Manure Scoop

There is no best way to dispose of swine mortality carcasses. While some methods may work well for managing routine mortalities, due to capacity issues, they may not adapt to times when catastrophic mortalities occur. The optimum system for any particular farm location is based on a number of criteria, including the current state of the protein/oil market, the biosecurity required, the distance to processing sites, the local public's perception, the government regulations that apply to that location, the environmental conditions, and the ability of the farm to carry out the different procedures. Take a look at this month's [The Manure Scoop](#) to read more.