



# **Disposal of Deadstock in Emergencies**

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# Deadstock Emergencies



## On Farm

OMAFRA – Education, Outreach  
MOECC – Compliance and  
Enforcement



## Off-Farm

OMAFRA



Health of Animals  
Act – CFIA

# Deadstock Emergencies



## On Farm

(O. Regulation 106/09 under Nutrient Management Act)



## Off-Farm

(O. Regulation 105/09, under the Food Safety and Quality Act)



Health of Animals Act  
(federal)

## On Farm - O. Regulation 106/09

### Sets out:

- General rules for disposal of dead farm animals **on farm**
- Disposal options, including setbacks and limitations:
  - Burial
  - Incineration
  - Disposal Vessels
  - Composting
  - Collection
- Transportation requirements
- Record keeping requirements

# General Rules for On-Farm Disposal

- Must dispose of deadstock within 48 hours of death
  - unless held for a post mortem, valuation (predation) or loss adjustment (up to 7 days)
  - can be temporarily stored for:
    - No more than 14 days if kept at 4C
    - No more than 240 days if kept frozen
- Storage must be done in a manner that:
  - Prevents leakage from occurring
  - Protects carcasses from scavengers/pests
  - Keeps deadstock out of public view

# O. Regulation 105/09

## Disposal Options Off-Farm

### Rendering:

- Condition of the carcasses
- Capacity and storage issues in Ontario
- Transport costs

### Landfill:

- Limited availability
- Willingness to accept large amounts
- Transport costs/higher “tip fees” often imposed
- Private landfill that can accept cattle: Moose Creek (Cornwall), Ridge (Chatham), and Twin Creeks (Sarnia)
- Municipal: Usually limited to accepting from own region – few have shown interest

## O. Regulation 105/09 Disposal Options Off-Farm

### **Composting:**

- Challenging to operate
- Expensive to build and commission (\$300,000 - \$500,000)
- Currently, only one location licensed in Ontario
- Requires significant amount of carbon material (i.e. sawdust)

### **Incineration:**

- Little to no availability + very expensive
- Unit must have MECP approval
- Currently, only one location – accepts horses only

## Emergency Authorization

\*\*\*\* With minor terminology changes between O. Reg. 105/09 and 106/09:

If an operator believes that **emergency conditions** exist that make it **impractical for him or her to comply** with a provision of this Regulation respecting **storage, disposal or transportation**, he or she **may apply** to a director for authorization to **store, dispose of, transport**, or otherwise deal with the dead farm animals in a manner that would **not otherwise be permitted** under this Regulation.



## How it REALLY works:

- Find out about the emergency
  - SAC, social media or direct contact
- Livestock deaths confirmed
- Assessment made about compliance with Regs
- Meet or talk with farmer and insurance agent
- Request for Emergency Authorization is “made” by farmer
- Staff Report completed to support the Request for Emergency Authorization
- Director issues the Emergency Authorization

## How it REALLY works

- Majority of emergency authorizations are for extensions of time for disposal
  - Fires can continue for days
  - Complex insurance coverage
- Some requests to bury deadstock on farm
  - Times change – no longer preferred option
- Specified Risk Materials from CFIA mean decreased options for disposal of dead cattle

# What an Emergency Authorization Cannot Be Used For

- Remedy non-compliance
- Remedy lack of, or insufficient insurance
  - Regulations designed to protect environment and food safety
- For non-emergencies
  - Example – structural collapse due to snow load caused the death of cattle
  - Operator decided to compost, mortalities kept in frozen state
  - In spring, operator asked for Emergency Authorization for burial pit

# Mass Carcass Disposal Plan

- Identification and pre-selection of environmentally suitable carcass disposal sites
- Critically important
- Must consider many elements, including:
  - disposal methods
  - disposal sites
  - transportation routes
  - environmental issues
  - public health concerns
  - legislation
  - compensation
  - and **communication!**



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## Mass Carcass Disposal - Purpose

- Provide municipalities with a systematic approach to:
  - identify available disposal options
  - determine the extent of any potential disposal problem(s);
  - select appropriate disposal method(s)
  - implement a process to develop and maintain a mass carcass disposal plan
  - incorporate emergency carcass disposal provisions into existing emergency response plans

# Health of Animals Act

- Destruction of highly infectious animals ordered by CFIA
- CFIA may compensate for animals ordered destroyed
- Biosecurity – containment is priority concern
- Possible requests of municipality:
  - Maps
  - Local knowledge and databases
  - Road signs and barriers
  - Equipment for checkpoints
  - Law enforcement
  - Command posts, operation centres
  - Disposal sites
  - Heavy or specialized equipment
  - Staffing

## Lessons Learned

- **Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus**
  - Resulted in more on-farm disposal due to fears of transmission
- **Pigeon King**
  - market collapse resulted in mass carcass disposal
  - No biosecurity issues but very public
- **Tornado or Snow Load**
  - Structural collapse
  - Unsafe structures but live animals inside
  - Requires emergency housing

## Lessons Learned

- **Avian Influenza**

- CFIA ordered initial composting of deadstock + feed inside barn;
- Safety concerns during the cull
  - Emergency response can enter the quarantined areas but exit is a problem
  - Road closures are important for biosecurity
  - Health Unit involvement due to potential for transmission to humans
- CFIA released large amount of finished compost to provincial control
- Economic development/tourism – hiking trails in close proximity, pet sales, and backyard flocks



# OMAFRA Geographic Information Portal

## [Canada Land Inventory \(CLI\)](#)

- land use index for agriculture, forestry and recreation
- Prefabricated CLI maps in PDF format

## [Agricultural Information Atlas](#)

- Online application to create custom maps
- Agricultural information – soils, drainage
- Environmental information – wells, drinking water

# Questions?

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