

ISSUES

THIS CHAPTER EXPLORES CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH DEADSTOCK DISPOSAL, INCLUDING:

- **specified risk material from infected animals**
- **risks associated with natural disposal**
- **biosecurity**
- **expense**
- **transportation**
- **availability of services.**

SOCIETAL CONCERNS

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) AND RENDERING

Following the discovery of BSE, consumer confidence stayed high and consumption of beef actually increased. Consumers can rest assured that specified risk material (SRM) is removed from the human food chain and that rendered ruminant materials cannot be used as a food source for ruminant animals.

For more information, see the Canadian Food Inspection Agency factsheet:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/bseesb/enhren/enhrene.shtml>

SPECIFIED RISK MATERIAL (SRM)

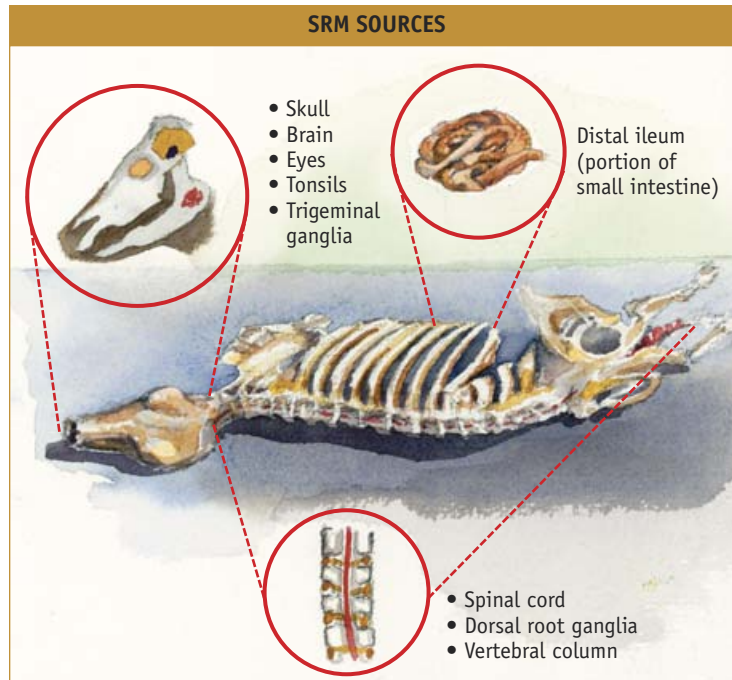
The Government of Canada has implemented an enhanced feed ban that prohibits specified risk material (SRM) from use in feed, fertilizer and pet food. The removal of SRM from the human and animal food chain is an essential component of the feed ban. It will eliminate the chance of cross-contamination and also speed up the process of eliminating BSE from our cattle herds.

In an infected animal, SRM harbours the BSE prions (causative agents). Removal of SRM eliminates the potential threat of infectivity in the human and animal food chain. SRM includes: distal ileum (portion of small intestine) from cattle of all ages, and the skull, brain, eyes, tonsils, spinal cord, trigeminal and dorsal root ganglia from cattle 30 months of age and older. The SRM regulations require the permitting of the material (entire carcasses or parts thereof) and site for each time the SRM is conveyed, processed, controlled, or destroyed.

The SRM enhancements are a nationwide commitment to meet international requirements. For more information, see the Canadian Food Inspection Agency factsheet cited above this textbox.



Specified Risk Material (SRM) is excluded from the human and animal food chain by law. For more information, contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.



In cattle 30 months of age and older, certain tissues are designated Specified Risk Material.

NATURAL DISPOSAL

Natural disposal is illegal. Any practice that involves leaving deadstock in natural areas for predation by scavengers or placing deadstock on manure piles is against the law. It attracts unwanted scavengers, predators, flies and disease – and creates odours as well.

Wildlife biologists argue that this practice actually trains predators, such as coyotes, to look to domestic ruminants, alive or dead, as a local food source.

Tossing deadstock in manure piles or in liquid manure storages is not a proper disposal method. Deadstock will not decompose thoroughly prior to field application.



Natural disposal is illegal. It attracts predators, scavengers and disease.

Exposed deadstock can be a source of odour. Best management practices for disposal will avoid this problem.



Best management practices for removal, storage, cleaning and disposal form part of a biosecurity plan for livestock operations.



Poorly sited and managed deadstock disposal sites are at risk of contaminating groundwater or surface water.

BIOSECURITY

Deadstock infected with contagious pathogens can be a hazard to animals on and off the farm – and in some cases, to human handlers. Some pathogens can contaminate housing facilities as well as nearby soil and water resources.

Proper removal, storage, cleaning and disposal methods can minimize biosecurity risks. Check the section on BMPs for handling before disposal for further information.

WATER CONTAMINATION

Groundwater and surface water can be contaminated by improperly sited and poorly managed disposal systems. In some cases, nutrients, organic debris, and pathogens can leach from poorly sited burial sites to groundwater used for drinking water. Poorly managed or located static or windrow composting systems can potentially contaminate surface waters.

ON-FARM CONCERNS

COSTS

Complying with new regulatory requirements, investing in new technology, and using rendering services have costs associated with them. In many cases, these costs have not been integrated into the cost of production, and are not easily passed on to consumers. Some agri-environmental cost-share programs will cover a portion of the costs of disposal BMPs.

AVAILABILITY OF DISPOSAL SERVICES

Collection services are not readily available in all parts of Ontario, such as northern Ontario.

In the recent past, restrictions were in place for the collection of certain livestock and diseased animals. This changed in July 2007. Consult your service provider for more information.

TRANSPORTATION OF CARCASSES

Regulations under the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 require that any vehicle used to transport deadstock on a public highway must be designed and equipped to prevent leakage and allow for effective cleaning and disinfecting. Deadstock must be kept from public view. Movement of bovine carcasses as well as specific treatment activities require federal SRM permitting.