

DEADSTOCK COLLECTION

THIS CHAPTER DESCRIBES REQUIREMENTS AND BMPs FOR DEADSTOCK COLLECTORS, INCLUDING:

- **licensing and transport requirements for licensed collectors**

- **advantages and disadvantages of the service**

- **storage prior to collection**

- **collection systems and biosecurity.**

Ontario farms produce approximately 80,000 tonnes of deadstock annually, 60–65% of which are collected.

Many areas across Ontario with significant livestock density have access to a reliable and cost-effective deadstock removal service. The degree and cost of the service depends on the number of animals in a specific region or area, the distance travelled by the collector, and the type and species of deadstock being collected.

For the average livestock producer, deadstock collection requires minimal management responsibilities and handling facilities. For many producers, deadstock collection continues to be the most effective and convenient way of dealing with regular death loss.

Only those licensed under the Food Safety Quality Act, 2001 Regulation 105/09 may engage in the business of collecting deadstock. The rules and regulations pertaining to deadstock collection can be found at www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/ahw/licencing.htm

LICENSED DEADSTOCK COLLECTORS

LICENSING AND TRANSPORT

Roles and Responsibilities

All deadstock collectors require renewable licences under s.23 of the Food Safety Quality Act (FSQA), 2001, Reg. 105/09 to pick up deadstock from Ontario farms. Fees are generally charged for the disposal service and as already noted, will vary.

Collectors are required to deliver deadstock to an approved facility promptly. All deadstock collected must be delivered to a disposal facility licensed under FSQA Regulation 105/09, namely:

- ▶ salvage, rendering, or composting facilities
- ▶ transfer stations
- ▶ an equivalent facility located outside Ontario, or
- ▶ an approved waste disposal site.



Collection of deadstock by a collector for further processing is recognized as the most effective and sustainable disposal method.

Collectors are required to ensure that the vehicles they use to collect deadstock are maintained in good working condition. Equipment and structures coming into contact with deadstock that may be contaminated with disease-producing organisms must be cleaned and sanitized.

Deadstock may not be transported together with live animals. After delivery, the transport vehicle must be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before leaving the licensed premises.

Vehicles, trailers and transport containers used to collect deadstock must meet a specified standard and are required to carry evidence that the vehicle is licensed under FSQA Regulation 105/09. The collector must display evidence of a licence in the windshield of the vehicle.

Vehicles used to collect deadstock must meet the following conditions:

- **designed to prevent leakage of materials**
- **surfaces that come into contact with deadstock are impervious and capable of withstanding repeated cleaning and sanitizing**
- **deadstock are not visible to the public during transport.**

This link – www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/ahw/deadstock_operators.htm – will provide a list of licensed persons and companies who provide deadstock collection service.

Although the service is widely available, the number of collectors involved in on-farm collection has decreased over the past few years. Deadstock collectors continue to offer pickup service from farms, abattoirs and sales barns located in most areas of southern and eastern Ontario. However, generally speaking, northern Ontario does not have access to this option.

The discovery of BSE in cattle (May 2003) had a considerable impact on the deadstock collection and rendering industry, which traditionally processed the deadstock into a number of valuable, marketable recycled products. In response, the deadstock collection and rendering industry was forced to implement a number of changes to their operations and increase collection fees.

Many believe deadstock collection provides the best protection against disease transmission and wildlife scavenging. Other avoided risks include the potential for pollution of air, soil, surface water and groundwater when deadstock are disposed of on the farm. There are a number of pros and cons related to deadstock removal.

Advantages

Recycling

- ▶ hides are removed, treated and sold
- ▶ collector can salvage meat for use as pet food, wildlife bait, and food for captive wildlife
- ▶ most of the deadstock collected end up in the rendering stream where high-heat treatment (to destroy disease organisms) is used to create useful products such as tallow (fat) and meat and bonemeal (proteins)
 - ▷ these may be marketed directly or further processed if permitted into animal feed, fertilizer, feedstock for energy, and lubricants

Less on-farm disposal

- ▶ reduces the potential for soil, air and water contamination
- ▶ few further costs associated with disposal beyond the collector's fee
- ▶ minimal on-farm risk to human and animal health

Low management input required / cost-effective

- ▶ other management options require more intensive on-farm management and supervision (e.g., site selection, active management, monitoring)
- ▶ simple from producer's perspective
- ▶ collection of large animals and high volumes is feasible
- ▶ less expensive than other disposal options for most types of animals
- ▶ generally favoured by public and environmentally concerned citizens
- ▶ requires minimal monitoring for predators, odours and leaching

Disadvantages

Cost/Availability

- ▶ fees based on changing market prices for recyclables
- ▶ often more expensive in underserved areas and for species associated with disease
 - concerns: bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle, scrapie in sheep and chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer and elk
- ▶ collection service not always available in remote areas of the province
- ▶ collection fees often higher in areas of the province where livestock numbers are less dense
- ▶ livestock identification may be required by regulations (e.g., CCIA for cattle)



An advantage of collection is it requires minimal monitoring for predators, odours or leaching.

Biosecurity

- ▶ while collectors' vehicles are cleaned and sanitized after delivering their load to a receiving or rendering plant each day, they collect from more than one farm daily
- ▷ collecting deadstock poses a higher risk potential for the presence of disease organisms – the risk increases that these organisms could be carried to other farms

Most renderers no longer accept dead swine that were treated with a product containing sulfamethazine and died before the drug withdrawal time was complete.



Current enhanced restrictions on using specified risk material (SRM) in any animal feed – not just those destined for ruminants – will further reduce the recycling value of deadstock, particularly bovines. This could lead to even higher collection costs.

STORAGE PRIOR TO PICKUP

Storage is an important component of a deadstock collection system. The condition of the deadstock is extremely important to the deadstock collection and carcass processing industry if they are to derive marketable end products from the materials collected. Therefore, farmers must always take steps necessary to keep deadstock from decaying during storage, and arrange for prompt collection when a deadstock is discovered.

Nutrient Management Act, 2002 (NMA) Regulation 106/09 requires carcass decomposition be minimized prior to collection. If the deadstock is too decomposed, the collector may refuse to collect the carcass because the rendering industry can no longer use it.

This is particularly a problem in the heat of summer when the general requirement to dispose of deadstock within 48 hours after death may be too long to maintain it in an acceptable state. The following rules and recommendations apply to deadstock storage prior to pickup.

REFRIGERATION AND FREEZING

As touched on in the previous chapter, there are provisions in the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 Reg. 106/09 that allow for storage of deadstock beyond 48 hours if the carcass is held in a refrigerated or frozen state.

If held in a refrigerated state, deadstock can be held for up to 14 days before disposal.

If frozen, deadstock must be held in an area that has a continuous temperature sufficient to maintain it in a frozen-solid state. Under frozen conditions, deadstock can be held for as long as 240 days before disposal.



Deadstock can be stored under frozen conditions for up to 240 days before disposal.

OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW

The Nutrient Management Act, 2002 Reg. 106/09 also requires that prior to collection, deadstock must be hidden from view and protected from scavengers and vermin.

Deadstock left at the road for collection in full public view are perceived as an environmental hazard by the public and complaints are inevitable.

A number of methods are used to keep deadstock out of public view, including plastic drums for poultry, bins or covers for hogs, and solid enclosed areas for larger species.



Place covers in designated areas for pickup.

BIN SYSTEM

In parts of the province, bin collection has become the norm in the hog industry. This has benefits for both the collector and the producer.

Bins can be moved easily, and can normally be obtained directly from the collector at minimal cost. In this way, deadstock can be added to the bin at the barn, and then the bin can be transferred to a pickup site away from the buildings – thus avoiding the need for the collector's vehicle to access farm yards. In addition, when the collector picks up the bin, the vehicle operator does not need to leave the vehicle. Both these factors contribute to a reduced biosecurity risk.

While the bin system is an effective tool, the bin must be cleaned regularly, particularly in the summer months. This will help reduce the risk of the bin itself becoming a source of disease organisms.

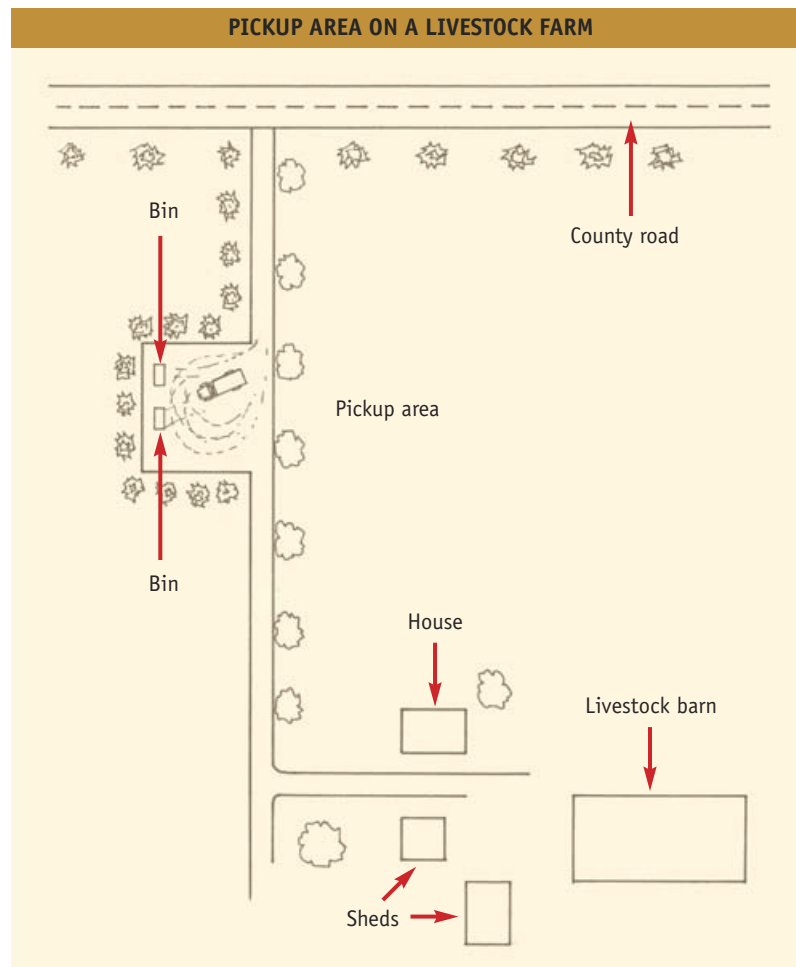
BIOSECURITY

While biosecurity is a risk factor when using the services of a deadstock collector, there are ways to reduce the risks.

SEPARATE PICKUP AREA

Creating a pickup area away from animal housing and away from high traffic areas means the collector's vehicle will be kept away from these areas. This will result in less opportunity for any disease organisms to be brought into the vicinity of livestock.

The NMA regulation allows for a farm operation to have only one collection area or point on the farm, and at no time can the weight of deadstock exceed 3,000 kg (6,614 lb) at the collection point.



A well-designed pickup area will help to make service more efficient for all.

SEPARATE ENTRANCE IS BEST

The ideal solution for reducing risk is to use or create a separate or lesser-used entrance. A storage area with adequate turnaround facilities and easy access for collection vehicles will promote prompt service with minimal time spent on-site.

STORAGE SYSTEMS

Any method that can be employed to reduce the vehicle driver's contact with deadstock will reduce the biosecurity risk both to your farm and other farms on the route.

The aforementioned bin system used in the swine industry is ideal, since the driver doesn't need to leave the vehicle cab. Drums used in the poultry industry also help reduce driver contact with dead birds.

Options for larger species are more limited. However, easy access will reduce the time spent on-farm by the collection vehicle and driver.

SEVEN FRIENDLY TIPS FOR DEADSTOCK COLLECTION

1. Most deadstock collectors operate their services 5–6 days a week. Call the moment you have a dead animal! Maintain a good relationship with the collector: pay collection fees on time and keep your account in good standing.
2. Develop a protocol with your collector for the handling, storage and pickup of deadstock with biosecurity and environmental awareness in mind.
3. Provide one permanent site out of public view for deadstock pickup that allows for all-season access. Maintain the site in clean condition.
4. If required by regulation, ensure that each dead animal is identified with applicable ear tag (e.g., national ID tags) prior to collection.
5. Cool/freeze smaller deadstock in containers. Use barrels or buckets.
6. Where necessary or preferred by both parties, defer collection by storing deadstock, thereby keeping your costs down and benefiting the collector.
7. Work with the collector to find ways to improve your collection and reduce disposal costs, with the goal of ensuring service will continue.

Establish a rigid protocol for handling, storing and disposing of deadstock – with biosecurity and environmental awareness in mind.



Call your deadstock collector as soon as possible when you discover a dead animal on your farm.