

REGULATION OF ON-FARM DEADSTOCK

THIS CHAPTER SETS OUT ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS IN LEGISLATION AFFECTING DEADSTOCK DISPOSAL IN ONTARIO.

While this publication promotes best management practices for the disposal of livestock and poultry that die on the farm, producers also need to be aware that there are minimum requirements set out in legislation. This chapter will highlight some of the key requirements.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (NMA)

In general terms, the regulation of **on-farm** deadstock disposal falls under the Nutrient Management Act, 2002. Ontario Reg. 106/09 covers requirements for all the disposal options as well as transportation, record-keeping, and what to do in case of emergency conditions.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Ministry of the Environment (MOE) jointly manage a comprehensive program to support the NMA.

OMAFRA RESPONSIBILITY

- education and extension
- where emergency conditions make it impractical to comply with the NMA regulation, authorization of deadstock disposal in a manner not otherwise permitted under the NMA regulation

OMAFRA has Environmental Specialists located in various resource centres throughout the province who can assist producers in understanding and meeting the requirements set out under the NMA.

MOE RESPONSIBILITY

- compliance, including inspections and complaint response
- investigations and enforcement

MOE's compliance program is staffed with Agricultural Environmental Officers (AEOs), who are provincial officers with specialized agricultural training. An AEO may visit your farm for a number of reasons, including:

- to perform an inspection to assess compliance with legislative requirements
- to respond to a complaint received either from the public or through referral from another agency
- to respond to a report of an environmental incident or spill.

AEOs are also responsible for compliance with the Environmental Protection Act and the Ontario Water Resources Act. The MOE's on-farm compliance approach engages farmers actively to resolve issues, and AEOs work directly with farmers to achieve compliance with the law.

NMA REQUIREMENTS

Species Affected

Deadstock regulations under the NMA apply to the following farm animals:

- ▶ alpacas, bison, cattle, deer, elk, goats, llamas, sheep and yaks
- ▶ pigs and other porcine animals
- ▶ chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, guinea fowl, quails, pigeons, pheasants and partridges
- ▶ ratites
- ▶ horses, ponies and donkeys
- ▶ rabbits, other than rabbits kept as pets
- ▶ fur-bearing animals.

Disposal Options

Any deadstock must be disposed of within 48 hours after death, or sooner if the deadstock begins to putrefy – except if held for purposes of post-mortem activity as specified in the regulation. Deadstock may be stored in cold storage for as long as 14 days or in frozen storage for as long as 240 days before final disposal.

The NMA allows for a number of disposal options including:

- ▶ collector service
- ▶ composting
- ▶ disposal vessel
- ▶ incineration
- ▶ burial
- ▶ delivery to an approved anaerobic digester
- ▶ delivery to an approved waste disposal site
- ▶ delivery to a licensed disposal facility under Reg. 105/09 of the Food Safety and Quality Act (FSQA)
- ▶ delivery to a veterinarian for post-mortem.

Setback Distances

Each on-farm disposal option has specific requirements under NMA, including a series of **minimum setback distances** listed on the chart on page 32. In addition, each option has rules specific to that option.

Option-Specific Requirements

Collection

Deadstock may be picked up at the farm or delivered to the collector.

Deadstock must be stored so that:

- ▶ liquids cannot escape
- ▶ it is protected from scavengers
- ▶ it is concealed from public view.

The pickup area is to be kept clean of animal matter after pickup.

Composting

Only the following materials can be used:

- ▶ sawdust, shavings or chips from clean, uncontaminated, untreated wood
- ▶ straw from grain, corn or beans
- ▶ livestock bedding with at least 30% dry matter and containing only allowable composting materials – see Reg. 106/09, section 16(2) (4)
- ▶ clean hay or silage
- ▶ poultry litter.

Mixture must not be more than 25% deadstock and no less than 75% substrate by volume if done by a method other than in-vessel composting.

Mixture must not be more than 50% deadstock and no less than 50% substrate by volume for in-vessel composting.

Piles must be covered with at least 0.6 metres (2 ft) of substrate or a non-compostable, retractable covering that minimizes odours and prevents scavenging. Allowable substrate materials for the cover include clean wood chips, hay or straw, and poultry litter if composting takes place in a fully enclosed structure that has a concrete floor.

Composting must continue until, upon visual inspection, there is no soft animal tissue at all, no bone fragments greater than 15 cm (6 in.), no other animal matter larger than 25 mm (1 in.), and no offensive odour.

Also:

- ▶ maximum 600 cubic metres (21,189 ft³) of compost or compost material per site
- ▶ maximum 600 square metre footprint (6,458 ft²) per disposal site
- ▶ no composting directly on organic soil or hydrologic soil groups AA or A
- ▶ cannot be placed on a floodplain.

Disposal Vessels

- ▶ cannot exceed 10 cubic metres (353 ft³)
- ▶ must be protected from scavenging
- ▶ must be impervious and leakproof except for at least one vent (duct)
- ▶ can be kept on surface of the ground, partially buried or fully buried

Incineration

- ▶ incinerator type must have been issued a Verification Certificate by ETV Canada certifying that it has a secondary chamber that can maintain the temperatures of the gases entering it for at least 1 second at 1,000 °C (1,832 °F) or 2 seconds at 850 °C (1,562 °F)
- ▶ on visual inspection, no soft animal tissue at all, no bone fragments greater than 15 cm (6 in.) and no other animal matter larger than 25 mm (1 in.) can remain at the end of incineration
- ▶ a maximum of 1,000 kg (2,205 lb) can be incinerated per 24-hour period
- ▶ the incinerator must not be used to incinerate any other material

Burial

- ▶ no burial in organic soil or hydrologic soil group AA
- ▶ 2,500 kg (5,512 lb) maximum weight per burial pit
- ▶ deadstock kept covered with at least 0.6 metres (2 ft) of soil at all times
- ▶ burial pit closed by mounding to a height above ground equivalent to half the pit depth or 0.6 metres (2 ft), whichever is higher
- ▶ pit regularly monitored for one year to check for depressions or signs of scavenging

TRANSPORTATION

Owners or collectors may transport deadstock on public highways, provided the deadstock are delivered to a site that is allowed under the NMA. The deadstock must be kept hidden from public view and the vehicle must be designed to prevent leakage. The vehicle must have surfaces that can be cleaned and sanitized after each time deadstock is transported.

Owners wishing to transport dead cattle are required to obtain a SRM permit for transport. Contact the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342.

Record-Keeping

When a farm animal dies, a record of disposal must be made. The record needs to include:

- ▶ the species and age of the animal
- ▶ the animal's weight
- ▶ time and date of death if known
- ▶ cause of death
- ▶ time and date of disposal
- ▶ place of disposal
- ▶ date record was made
- ▶ for incineration, a record of temperatures in the combustion chambers throughout the incineration process.

Records must be kept for a period of at least two years.

Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) tag numbers for deadstock must be reported to CCIA for removal from the system within 30 days of the animal's death.

HEALTH OF ANIMALS ACT (SPECIFIED RISK MATERIAL)

For those producers who deal with species affected by BSE (cattle), there are additional requirements regarding the handling of deadstock.

Dead cattle or bison cannot be moved off the farm where they died without a permit to transport from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). For more information, view OMAFRA's factsheet on *Managing Specified Risk Material Under the Enhanced Feed Ban* at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/news/vbn0707a2.htm>

Agencies and Offices

Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Animal Health

Ontario Area Office
174 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON N1G 4S9
ph: 519-837-9400

For a complete list of local offices in Ontario, see:
www.inspection.gc.ca/English/anima/heasan/offbure.shtml

Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario Agricentre
100 Stone Road West, Suite 206
Guelph, ON N1G 5L3
ph: 1-800-668-3276
email: inquiries@ofa.on.ca
web: www.ofa.on.ca

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Agricultural Information Contact Centre
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2
ph: 1-877-424-1300
email: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca
web: www.omafra.gov.on.ca

Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Public Information Centre
1st flr., 135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
ph: 1-800-565-4923
email: picemail.moe@ontario.ca
web: www.ene.gov.on.ca

For More Information

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has numerous factsheets and other information pertaining to deadstock disposal, including:

- new deadstock disposal regulations
- options for on-farm disposal
- licensed deadstock collectors for off-farm disposal.

For a complete and up-to-date list of publications, please see: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/deadstock/index.html>

or call the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300.

The following American document is an excellent resource for more detailed information on the principles underlying various deadstock disposal options.

Carcass Disposal: A Comprehensive Review, National Agricultural Biosecurity Center Consortium, Kansas State University, 2004

A number of books in the Best Management Practices series pertain to facets of on-farm soil and water quality. For a complete list of titles and information on how to obtain your copies, please see page i.

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