Emergency Depopulation of Livestock Facilities During COVID-19

Animals continue to grow and move through livestock production systems despite packing plant closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. These recommendations pertain to livestock farmers who may be forced to euthanize livestock to avoid exposing their animals and workers to unsafe conditions.

1. **Humane animal handling and euthanasia practices should always be a priority.** Contact your herd veterinarian for guidance on accepted euthanasia methods.

2. **Options for carcass disposal in Nebraska include rendering, composting, burial, incineration, and landfilling.** Contact your Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) Field Inspector if you plan to dispose of animals on-farm.

3. **Financial and technical assistance for COVID-19 related carcass disposal is available through the USDA Emergency Animal Mortality Management Initiative.** Contact the USDA Service Center in your county. Completion of NRCS Form 1200 is recommended before euthanizing any animals for potential FEMA or indemnity claims.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- **Swine COVID-19 Response Materials**
  University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- **Recommendations for the Depopulation of Swine**
  American Association of Swine Veterinarians

- **What You Need to Know About COVID-19**
  National Pork Board

- **Pork Industry COVID-19 Resources**
  National Pork Board

- **Tools for Pork Producers**
  National Pork Board

**Contact Information**

- **Dr. Benny Mote**
  UNL Swine Extension Specialist
  Ph: (402) 310-9878

- **Dr. Amy Schmidt**
  UNL Extension Engineering Specialist
  Ph: (402) 326-2077

- **NRCS**
  Ph: (402) 437-5300

© Copyright Nebraska Extension. 2020 4/30/20 v1