

Process for Requesting Approval to Dispose of Livestock Mortalities by On-Farm Burial Resulting from a Mass Cull

Due to market uncertainty and potential disruptions to livestock processing capacity in North America resulting from COVID-19, or a foreign animal disease outbreak, Manitoba livestock producers may be faced with culling of livestock. Mass culling of livestock requires sustainable disposal options. On-farm burial is one of the disposal options that can be considered.

The purposes of this factsheet is to provide information to producers to help navigate the approval process with Manitoba Environment and Climate for on-farm burial and to ensure that necessary information is provided so that timely approvals can be issued.

On-farm Burial Site Selection:

The burial site must:

- be 100 metres from any surface watercourse, sinkhole, spring, well and the operation boundaries
- be Agriculture Capability Class 1 to 5 and must not include Class 6, 7 or unimproved organic soils
- have fine textured sub-soil including: clay, silty clay, sandy clay, silty clay loam or clay loam

If the on-farm burial site does not meet the above criteria, then on-farm burial will not be approved and alternate arrangements (such as those mentioned below) will be required. Please contact one of the Manitoba Environment and Climate contacts noted below to discuss available options.

Initiating the Approval Process for On-farm Burial:

A written request for approval of on-farm burial must be submitted to the appropriate Supervisor of Manitoba Environment and Climate (provided below) and should include the following information:

- name, contact information and location of the operation
- size of the operation in animal units
- type of livestock and number of mortalities involved
- urgency of the situation – approval could take two to three days once all of the required information is submitted. Urgent approvals can be expedited and operators are encouraged to explain the urgency of the approval to Manitoba Environment and Climate when initial contact is made.

The following supporting information is also required to process the approval, and should be provided as soon as it becomes available, preferably with the initial request. The Manitoba Agriculture contacts noted below may be able to assist in preparing the following:

- precise burial location (including a site sketch if possible)
- distance from the proposed burial site to surface water, surface watercourses and the operations boundaries (note: all of these distances should be at minimum 100 metres)
- whether or not there are biosecurity/disease concerns at the subject site, and
- a description of local soil conditions and normal high water table, if available.

Criteria for On-farm Burial Trenches:

- The burial trench should not exceed 5 metres in depth (dependant upon groundwater elevation) and 4 metres in width.
- Trenches should be no closer than twice the width of the trench, with a minimum separation of 4 metres. For example, if the trench is 3 metres wide there should be 6 metres minimum between adjacent trenches.
- Trenches must be capped at the end of each day with at least 1 metre of soil to cover carcasses. The trench should not be packed following closing as the ground may not be stable.

Contact Information for Approval:

Manitoba Environment and Climate		
<u>Disease Outbreaks</u> Bryce Wood Environment Officer 204-781-7226 or Bryce.Wood@gov.mb.ca	<u>Eastern Region and Interlake</u> Allan Cyrenne Regional Supervisor 204-485-6410 or Allan.Cyrenne@gov.mb.ca	<u>Western and Northern</u> Kristy Forrestall District Supervisor 204-573-0518 or Kristy.Forrestall@gov.mb.ca

Contact Information for Assistance with Supporting Information:

Manitoba Agriculture	
Clay Sawka Agri-Ecosystems Specialist-Manure Management 204-750-3066 or Clay.Sawka@gov.mb.ca	Petra Loro (alternate) Agri-Ecosystems Specialist-Livestock Environment 204-918-0325 or Petra.Loro@gov.mb.ca

Disposal at an Approved Waste Management Facility:

If burial is not an option, landfills may be able to dispose of the livestock mortalities. Landfills charge a tipping fee for mortalities disposal and box liners may be required.

Please contact the landfill operators directly to confirm the landfill has capacity, what transport restriction/conditions are applicable, and arrange for delivery to coincide with operational activities of the landfill. Most landfills will require a minimum of 24 hours notice and will not accept unscheduled deliveries.

A list of landfills can be found on Manitoba Environment and Climate's website:

www.manitoba.ca/sd/pubs/environmental-approvals/livestock/offal_deadstock_disposal_sites.pdf

On-Farm Composting:

In some instances, on-farm composting may also be an option. General information on composting livestock mortalities can be found on Manitoba Agriculture's website:

www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/environment/mortality-management/composting.html

If you would like more information regarding on-farm composting, contact your local Environment Officer or one of the contacts for Manitoba Environment and Climate noted above.