

## Online resources

### “A LOW MAINTENANCE APPROACH TO LARGE CARCASS COMPOSTING”

American Society of Agricultural Engineers

Meeting Paper No. 032263.

<http://tammi.tamu.edu/carcasscompostasae032263b.pdf>

### “NATURAL RENDERING: COMPOSTING LIVESTOCK MORTALITY AND BUTCHER WASTE”

Cornell Waste Management Institute

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/naturalrendering.htm>

### ANIMAL MORTALITY FACILITY

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Conservation Practice Standard 316

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/316.pdf>

### COMPOSTING FACILITY

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 317

<ftp://ftpfc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/317.pdf>

### CARCASS DISPOSAL

Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/administrative/disasterresponse/bmp96.html>

### WHOLE ANIMAL COMPOSTING OF DAIRY CATTLE

New Mexico Cooperative Extension

[http://cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_d/D-108.pdf](http://cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/_d/D-108.pdf)

### COMPOSTING ANIMAL MORTALITIES

University of Minnesota.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/animals/animals/composting.htm>

## Resources

### OREGON REVISED STATUTES CHAPTER 601: DEAD ANIMALS

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/601.html>

### “DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL MORTALITY AND BYPRODUCTS”

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/docs/pdf/animaldispose.pdf>

### OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal Health Division—Salem

Phone: 503-986-4680

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/AHID>

Natural Resources Division—Salem

Phone: 503-986-4700

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/NRD>



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will be made available  
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## How do I file a complaint?

Call your local county sheriff's office to report improper animal disposal. Tell them you want to file a complaint in reference to Oregon Revised Statute 601. Your county may also have its own ordinance.

# LARGE ANIMAL MORTALITY



## Safe and legal disposal of animal carcasses

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION  
[HTTP://OREGON.GOV/ODA/NRD](http://oregon.gov/ODA/NRD)

MAY 2008

503-986-4700

# What you need to know...

Rendering plants once offered quick, affordable pickup of animal mortalities and by-products. However, recent declines in the price of useful commodities produced from animal carcasses have curtailed or eliminated many rendering operations in Oregon. But animals still die everyday.

Fortunately there are legal and appropriate ways to dispose of the carcasses. Carcass disposal must comply with the law. Disposal of animal carcasses is regulated under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 601. Some counties also have their own disposal related ordinances.

Improper disposal of animal carcasses can pollute ground and surface water, and can jeopardize the health of livestock, wildlife and pets.

ORS 601.140 states “no person shall leave the carcass of any domestic animal within ½ mile of any dwelling or within ¼ mile of any running stream of water for longer than 15 hours without burying or burning it.”



*These carcasses were disposed of illegally.*

# What you can do...

## BURIAL

Oregon law allows you to bury carcasses on your farm if the bottom of the hole is dry, and the carcass is covered with hydrated lime. You must also have at least 4 feet of soil mounded up on top to allow for settling as the carcass decomposes. As a guideline, burials should be at least 500 feet from surface waters or wells. This method is not legal for disposing of commercial butcher waste.

Burial of large numbers of carcasses requires a Catastrophic Animal Mortality Management Plan. If carcasses are brought to your farm from other locations, you may be subject to additional regulations from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), or your local land use planning agency.

## LANDFILL

Certain landfills are allowed to take carcasses as well as butchering waste. Call your local landfill to find out if they can accept animal carcasses. If the landfill does not accept animal carcasses, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) may be able to grant an exception. Phone numbers to local DEQ offices can be found in most phone books in the blue tabbed government pages.

## OPEN BURNING

Animal carcasses and by-products cannot be open burned. Openly burning carcasses of animals that died or were destroyed because of an animal disease emergency is allowed only when authorized by ODA.

## INCINERATION

Animal mortalities and by-products can be incinerated in a DEQ-approved incinerator or cremation unit. However, this option may be expensive.

## NATURAL DISPOSAL

You must place the carcass at least ½ mile from any dwelling and at least ¼ mile from any open waterway and let scavengers eat the carcass. This method is not legal for numerous carcasses or for disposal of commercial butcher waste.

You need a large farm or ranch to make this work. Carcasses left on the ground or buried in shallow pits may pose a threat to ground or surface water or jeopardize the health of domestic animals or wildlife.

## COMPOSTING

Composting dead animals and by-products allows you to recycle the nutrients in the carcasses and is a sound environmental practice. You must have a composting plan on file with ODA, and be implementing that plan. You may also need a DEQ permit.



*Composting butcher waste in Lake County.*