

Guidelines for Large Dead Animal Disposal by Burial

Dead animal disposal can be performed by various methods. Burial, incineration and composting are all acceptable and legal methods of disposing of dead animals. This plan specifically addresses burial, as it is the most common method used.

Incineration should be performed in accordance with the equipment manufacturer's recommendations.

Composting shall be performed in accordance with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service guidelines for composting swine.

The Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission regulates the disposal of dead animals, and they shall be contacted for proper procedures to dispose of dead animals in the case of a mass die off.

Dead animals shall be buried in pits or trenches, or by mounding. The burial should be performed in accordance with the following guidelines:

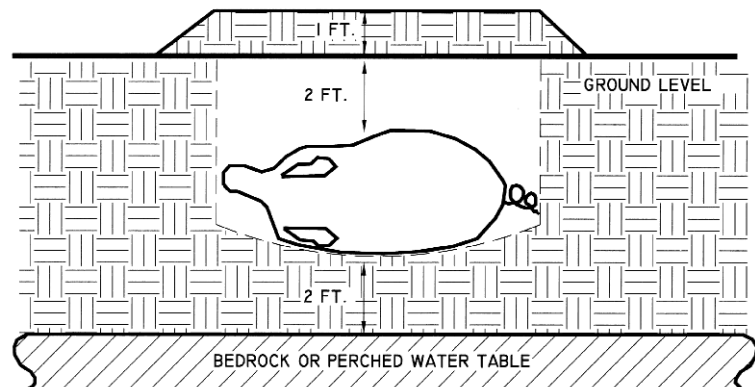
1. Burial shall be performed in the most remote area possible. Burial areas shall be located a minimum of 300 feet down gradient from wells, springs and other water sources. Burial shall not be made within 300 feet of streams or ponds, or in soils identified in the county soil survey as being frequently flooded.
2. The bottom of the pit or trench should not be closer than 2 foot to a perched water table or cavernous bedrock. A soil investigation of the burial area should be performed to ensure that the soils are adequate for dead animal disposal.
3. Pits or trenches shall be approximately 4 feet to a maximum of 6 feet deep. They should have stable slopes not steeper than 1 foot vertical to 1 foot

horizontal. Vertical side slopes will be acceptable on pits dug to meet a one-time burial provided that it is not necessary to have people work in the pit.

4. Dead animals shall be uniformly placed in the pit or trench so that the carcasses do not exceed a maximum thickness of 2 feet. All dead animals shall be covered the same day they are placed in the pit or trench. The cover over and surrounding the buried animals shall be a minimum of 3 feet. The finished cover shall be shaped so drainage and runoff will be away from the pit or trench.
5. The bottom of trenches left open shall be sloped to drain and shall have an outlet. All surface runoff shall be diverted from entering the trench.
6. Burial areas shall be inspected regularly and any subsidence or cavities filled.

Burial by mounding should be performed in areas where soil conditions described above cannot be met. The animal shall be placed flat on the ground and covered with a minimum of 3 feet of material. The surrounding area shall be graded and sloped to prevent water from ponding adjacent to the burial mound.

Burial of Large Dead Animals



These guidelines are from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service standards and are enforced by the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission.