

# Emergency Livestock Mortality

Funding available to help with safe disposal of livestock



## Assistance Available

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to livestock producers for animal mortality disposal, resulting from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## How to Apply

Producers facing livestock depopulation are encouraged to file the attached Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application (Form CCC-1200) with their local [NRCS field office](#). Applications are being accepted now.

Through EQIP, a producer can apply for a practice called Emergency Animal Mortality Management. In Iowa, this practice includes three options that NRCS is offering for the proper disposal of animal carcasses:

Option	Payment Unit	Payment Rate	
		Traditional	*HU
Burial	AU	\$74.28	\$89.14
Swine Disposal Other Than Burial (i.e. Composting)	AU	\$111.53	\$191.20
Incineration	AU	\$219.88	\$263.86
Disposal at Landfill or Render	Pounds	\$.05	\$.06

Conversion Factor: 1,000 lbs. = Animal Unit (AU)  
 One Animal Unit = 80 Weaning Pigs  
 3.5 Market Hogs  
 2 Sows

The producer is responsible for the proper disposal of animal mortality by following requirements specific to each option. All Federal, State and Local laws must be

followed and are the responsibility of the producer to secure any necessary permits. Plans and permits may be required for each option through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Refer to the Iowa DNR [Mass Animal Mortality Plan](#) for more details about disposal options and procedures.

## Eligibility

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.

For eligibility requirements, an application and approved early start waiver must be filed with the local NRCS office.

### Other program information:

- To receive assistance, producers must have **both** an application and an approved early start waiver filed at the local NRCS office prior to disposal of animal carcasses.
- Financial assistance is limited and not all applications will be funded.
- Prior to payment, a swine mortality certification is required by a veterinarian or animal health specialist. (Certification form attached.)
- Payment cap is \$25,000 per eligible applicant.
- \*Historically Underserved (HU) producers, including socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and beginning farmers/veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Through EQIP, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and energy usage on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

While not designed to be an emergency response program, EQIP can play a vital role in assisting producers recovering from disasters.

For more information about carcass disposal, see Emergency Animal Mortality Management ([NRCS Practice Code 368](#)).

Iowa

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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