NATURAL DECOMPOSITION—Continued

- At least 1,320 feet from any public roadway or neighboring residence.
- Decomposition must take place outside of public view and requires the permission of the land owner.

No more that 2,000 lbs of livestock may decompose above ground, per acre of land.

INCINERATION

Incineration of carcasses is allowed at an incineration facility or at a site approved by the Department of Ecology, if:

- Appropriate burning permits are obtained in advance,

The incineration reduces the carcass to mineral residue and ash is disposed of at the local landfill or by burial.

RENDERING

If a licensed and approved rendering facility accepts the animal carcass, rendering is an approved method of disposal.

RENDERING—Continued

Carcasses held for pickup must be screened from public view, in a dry area and not in a water runoff or drainage area.

BURNING

Routine open burning of carcasses is not allowed.

Questions?

Contact the Washington State Veterinarian’s Office at: (360) 902-1835
Or e-mail: pkohrs@agr.wa.gov

1111 Washington Street
PO Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
fax: (360) 902-2092

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Inquiries regarding the availability of this publication in an alternate format should be directed to the WSDA Receptionist at (360) 902-1976 or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (360) 902-1996.
ANIMAL DISPOSAL

All farmers know that properly disposing of a dead animal carcass can be a challenge. With rendering services becoming scarce and more costly, other options for disposal are becoming necessary.

This brochure explains the proper methods for the safe and legal disposal of dead livestock animals in Washington State. Currently, only Burial and Rendering are allowed by regulations, however, more detailed guidelines are currently being drafted by the Washington State Department of Agriculture, allowing additional forms of disposal.

APPROVED DISPOSAL METHODS

BURIAL

Burial of animal carcasses is generally permitted under the following conditions, unless otherwise regulated.

- All body parts must be buried at least three feet under the ground.
- Animal carcasses may only be buried with the landowners permission
- The site must be at least 300 feet from wells, surface water, existing neighboring residences,
- At least 50 feet from property lines,
- At least 3 feet above the high water mark for seasonal high groundwater levels,
- Total carcass weight in a single pit cannot exceed 1,000 lbs (for example, one large Bovine) per acre.

Burial is not allowed within a 100-year flood plain.

LANDFILL

Disposal of carcasses at a municipal solid waste landfill is allowed only at the Landfill operator’s discretion with authorization by the local health jurisdiction. Poultry carcasses must be double bagged to control loss of feathers.

COMPOSTING

Composting standards for small units of Livestock are currently being developed by the department. Composting of poultry carcasses is permitted under the following conditions.

- Compost area must be at least 300 feet from wells, surface water, and existing neighboring residences.
- Compost structure can only be used to compost the normal and natural daily mortality associated with a livestock production unit.

Compost structure must be built in accordance with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). You can access the NRCS Animal Waste Management site at http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/awm.

NATURAL DECOMPOSITION

Animals that die on private or state rangeland from causes other than significant infectious or contagious diseases or agents may be left to decompose naturally provided that:

- They are at least 1,320 feet from any wells, streams, or surface-water.