

Emergency Animal Mortality Management Initiative

Funding available to help with the 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 an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application ([Form CPA-1200](#)) with their local [NRCS field office](#). Applications are being accepted now.

Through EQIP, a producer can apply to receive assistance through a practice called Emergency Animal Mortality Management. This practice provides technical and financial assistance to properly dispose of livestock.

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.

If carcasses are managed as the result of an emergency with the potential to impact immediate or long term animal or public health and safety, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), and local emergency management authorities should be contacted. NDEE permitted

CAFOs should follow their catastrophic animal mortality plan approved in their Construction and Operating permit. Refer to the [Nebraska DEE Disposal of Animal Carcasses](#) website for more details about disposal options and procedures.

Eligibility

Agricultural producers, owners of non-industrial private forestland, and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. For eligibility requirements, an EQIP application and approved early start waiver must be filed with the local NRCS office. Applicants are not eligible for practice payment if the mortality management practice is implemented prior to signing an EQIP [CPA-1200 application form](#) and receiving an early start waiver approval notification letter.

Other program information:

- To receive assistance, producers must have **both** an EQIP application and an approved early start waiver filed at the local NRCS office prior to disposal of animal carcasses.
- Financial assistance is limited. Not all applications will be funded.
- There is a \$25,000 payment cap on the animal mortality practice.
- Historically Underserved 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 contact your local USDA Service Center, or Nebraska EQIP Program Manager Conor Ward, (402) 437-4112 conor.ward@usda.gov.

Practices Available for Financial and Technical Assistance	Unit Type	Payment Rate
Burial	Animal Unit	\$74.28
Forced Air Incineration	Animal Unit	\$219.88
Disposal at Landfill or Render	Pounds	\$0.05
Carcass Disposal Other Than Burial, Incineration, Landfill or Render	Animal Unit	\$111.53

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