



## SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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### GUIDELINES FOR ON-FARM CARCASS DISPOSAL

**SDCL 40-5-15 states carcasses must be disposed of in such a manner as the Board prescribes.**

The South Dakota Animal Industry Board Regulation 12:68:03:05 Procedures for Disposal of Animal Carcasses. states "Carcasses of animals which have died from noncommunicable causes shall be burned, buried to a depth of four feet, or disposed of by a licensed rendering plant within 36 hours."

Environmental impact is a real concern with burial or burning. Some Good Management Practices are described for burial and burning of carcasses. These are recommendations, which when used with good judgement, can ensure the livestock carcasses and other associated wastes are disposed of responsibly in an environmentally-safe manner.

#### BURIAL

- Call before you dig – SD One Call 1-800-781-7474 or Dial 811
- Burial should **not** take place:
  - Within 1,000 feet of surface water or within the boundaries of a floodplain or a river.
  - Within a wetland.
  - Within 1,000 feet of an occupied dwelling (without permission of the owner).
  - Within 1,000 feet of any private or public drinking water well.
  - Within 200 feet of a road right-of-way or property boundary (without permission of adjacent property owner).
  - Where the primary subsurface material 20 feet below the bottom of the burial trench is primarily sand or gravel.
  - Where the depth to an aquifer is less than 20 feet from the bottom of the burial trench.
- The burial site should be covered with at least four feet of soil to allow for compaction of soil to occur.
- Maintenance of the burial site will be necessary to ensure water **does not** collect over the burial site. Additional soil cover will be necessary as compaction and subsidence occurs with carcass decay.

#### SITE SELECTION

- Access to site in varying climate conditions.
- Site should be aesthetically acceptable and not in close proximity to public roadways or viewing public.

#### BURNING – INCINERATION

- Fuels such as tires, railroad ties, or treated wood are **not** allowed to fuel an open fire in South Dakota.
- The burn should be conducted at a minimum of 1,000 feet from an occupied dwelling, propane tank, fuel tank, or other tank or container storing flammable substances.
- Burning of carcasses should take place only during appropriate weather conditions.
- The smoke plume should be monitored **not** to impact neighbors, or highway and airport traffic.
- Local fire departments should be notified before carcass burning commences.

#### RENDERING

If rendering plant service is available in your area, schedule carcass removal within 36 hours of animal death.