

## **Winter Storm Cull Livestock and Carcass Disposal Options December 29, 2015**

As a result of the December 26-27, 2015 winter storm, coordination of movement of injured/cull cattle to slaughter and movement of carcasses for disposal to landfill or rendering from impacted areas of the state is of importance over the next few weeks.

**Note:** Before movement of injured and cull cattle to slaughter, producers should carefully document and photograph cattle injuries for use on insurance or emergency fund claims.

### **For Movement of Live Animals to Slaughter:**

Disposition of live cull cattle for slaughter can be done through regular sale channels or by movement directly to slaughter plants. For example, Caviness Beef Packers in Hereford, TX is one potential plant for movement of cull dairy cattle from New Mexico.

To arrange delivery time/pickup for cattle to Caviness Pack, call:

Cattle Department Caviness Beef Packers  
3255 West Hwy 60  
PO Box 790  
Hereford, TX 79045  
Phone: 806.357.2333

### **Management of Dead Livestock**

Disposal options for dead livestock in New Mexico include:

- a) Landfill
- b) Rendering
- c) Composting
- d) Burial

**Note:** Before disposal of livestock carcasses, producers should carefully document the number, size and estimated weight of dead animals and take photographs of how and where the animals were found for use on insurance or emergency fund claims.

#### **A) Landfill**

Intact livestock carcasses of otherwise healthy animals that died during the storm are considered agricultural waste, are exempt from solid waste regulations, and may be disposed of as solid waste in a landfill. **Producers should contact the local solid waste facility to make disposal arrangements before transport of the carcasses to the facility.** The landfill operator is responsible for immediate covering of the carcasses following delivery.

#### [New Mexico Open Permitted Landfills](#)

#### **B) Rendering**

Rendering capacity in the affected areas is about 700-800 cows/day; rendering capacity for calves is greater.

#### **For Movement of Dead Animals to Rendering:**

**1. County Services** – provides carcass pickup and transport services to rendering plants in:

- Stratford TX
- Hereford TX - capacity 300-400 head/day
- Plainview TX - capacity 300-400 head/day
- Clovis NM – capacity 60 head/day

Trucks for rendering carcass pickup will service most dairies in the Clovis, Portales, West Texas areas; one semi-truck/day goes to Roswell for carcass pick up. County Services will accept carcasses stored outside for 7-10 days from time of death as long as the environmental temperatures remains below 40°F.

Contact Wakie King or Leigh Ann at 806-293-4431 to schedule carcass pickup.

**2. Valley Proteins** – Amarillo, TX

Valley Proteins accepts only skinned/gutted/quartered animals from so called “pick-up facilities”. “Pick-up facilities” will pick up dead stock from the dairies.

Contact Robert: Smiddy 1-800-964-0950

### **C. Composting**

Composting is an acceptable carcass disposal option and can provide a timely solution for carcass disposal if space and bulking materials are available. Locating and moving enough appropriate carbon sources can be tough in emergency situations. Seeking guidance from a composting expert for cattle carcasses is advised to ensure proper set up and management of the compost pile.

For composting guidance contact:

Solid Waste Bureau Chief Auralie Ashley-Marx  
505-827-2775

[Auralie.Ashley-Marx@state.nm.us](mailto:Auralie.Ashley-Marx@state.nm.us)

Refer to:

NMSU Cooperative Extension Service Publication

[Whole Animal Composting of Dairy Cattle](#) Guide D-108

### **D. Burial**

On-premises burial is another livestock carcass disposal option for consideration. In New Mexico, animal carcasses are considered agricultural waste and exempt from solid waste regulations. Care in selection of the on-premises burial site is important to avoid unacceptable impacts on health and the environment. Although solid waste disposal siting criteria technically do not apply to livestock carcasses, consideration of these criteria in burial site selection is beneficial.

Carcass burial **should not take place:**

- within 50 feet of the premises property boundaries
- within 500 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church
- within 350 feet of a public water supply well or private well with a maximum sustainable yield of 100 gallons/minute or more
- within 1000 feet of a public water supply well or private drinking water supply well with sustainable yield of 100 gallons/minute
- where the top of the uppermost aquifer will be closer than 50 feet to the bottom of the fill
- in a flood plain, within 500 feet of a wetland or within 200 feet of a watercourse
- in areas near permanent or intermittent streams
- in areas that will destroy or adversely modify critical habitat of endangered or threatened species.

At least four feet of soil should cover a carcass burial site, since compaction of soil will occur. Maintenance of the burial site is necessary to ensure that water does not collect over the burial site. Addition of soil cover may be necessary over time as compaction and soil sinking occurs with carcass decay. Burial site selection should be aesthetically acceptable and away from public roadways or the viewing public.

## REFERENCES

### **NMSA 77-3-4. Dead animals; disposal.**

*The bodies of all dead animals shall be buried, burned or disposed of by the owners as provided by regulations of the board.*

**History:** *Laws 1909, ch. 9, § 3; Code 1915, § 108; C.S. 1929, § 4-1011; 1941 Comp., § 49-304; 1953 Comp., § 47-3-4; Laws 1993, ch. 248, § 19.*

### **NMAC 20.6.2.7 DEFINITIONS:**

**N.** *"refuse" includes food, swill, carrion, slops and all substances from the preparation, cooking and consumption of food and from the handling, storage and sale of food products, the carcasses of animals, junked parts of automobiles and other machinery, paper, paper cartons, tree branches, yard trimmings, discarded furniture, cans, oil, ashes, bottles, and all unwholesome material;*

**NMAC 20.6.2.2201 DISPOSAL OF REFUSE:** *No person shall dispose of any refuse in a natural watercourse or in a location and manner where there is a reasonable probability that the refuse will be moved into a natural watercourse by leaching or otherwise. Solids diverted from the stream and returned thereto are not subject to abatement under this Section.*

*[4-20-68, 9-3-72; 20.6.2.2201 NMAC - Rn, 20 NMAC 6.2.II.2201, 1-15-01]*

### **§74-9-3. Definitions**

*As used in the Solid Waste Act:*

**A.** *"agricultural" means all methods of production and management of livestock, crops, vegetation and soil. This includes, but is not limited to, raising, harvesting and marketing. It also includes, but is not limited to, the activities of feeding, housing and maintaining animals such as cattle, dairy cows, sheep, goats, hogs, horses and poultry;*

**N.** *"solid waste" means any garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining and agricultural operations and from community activities.*

**"Solid waste" does not include:**

*(4) agricultural waste, including, but not limited to, manures and crop residues returned to the soil as fertilizer or soil conditioner;*

**R.** *"special waste" means solid waste that has unique handling, transportation or disposal requirements to assure protection of the environment and the public health and safety;*

The NM Solid Waste Rules (20.9.2-10 NMAC) specify siting criteria for permitted landfills; these criteria are recommended for on-site disposal for extraordinary events. Placement near a floodplain, wetland, watercourse, archeological site, critical wildlife habitat, public water supply, water well, residence, building, seismic and fault zones are applicable criteria. For extraordinary events, the Solid Waste Bureau typically requires the disposal area be defined, including the depth and to allow two feet of cover placed. Depending on the County, there may be an ordinance in place for such disposal. Agricultural wastes are exempt from the regulation; the defined disposal area is not required, however a good recommended practice is to follow the siting criteria listed and two feet of cover over the waste.

### **20.9.4.9 SITING CRITERIA FOR MUNICIPAL, OR SPECIAL WASTE, CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION LANDFILLS, AND MONOFILLS.**

**A.** *No municipal, construction and demolition, or special waste landfill or monofill shall be located where, on the date of the first public notice as required in 20.9.3 NMAC, any portion of the proposed disposal area is:*

*(1) in a floodplain, within 500 feet of a wetlands, or within 200 feet of a watercourse unless the watercourse has been altered pursuant to an approval from the army corps of engineers or other appropriate authority;*

*(2) where the top of the uppermost aquifer will be closer than 100 feet to the bottom of the fill, or for construction and demolition landfills that do not accept more than 25 tons per day annual average, where the top of the uppermost aquifer will be closer than 50 feet to the bottom of the fill;*

- (3) *where new, abandoned, or exploration subsurface mines registered with the New Mexico department of energy, minerals and natural resources a may pose a risk of subsidence or instability;*
- (4) *within 200 feet of a fault that has had a displacement within Holocene time (i.e., the past 11,000 years), unless the owner or operator demonstrates to the secretary that an alternative setback of less than 200 feet will prevent damage to the structural integrity of the facility and will be protective of public health, welfare and the environment;*
- (5) *within historically or archaeologically significant sites, unless in compliance with the Cultural Properties Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 18-6-1 to 18-6-23 and the Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 18-8-1 to 18-8-8;*
- (6) *within 1,000 feet of a public water supply well or a private drinking water supply well with a sustainable yield of 100 gallons per minute or more, unless, in the case of registered unpermitted landfills, the well was constructed after the landfill began operations;*
- (7) *within 350 feet of a public water supply well or private well with a maximum sustainable yield of less than 100 gallons per minute, unless the well was constructed after the landfill began operations or the well was installed by the landfill owner or operator for operational use;*
- (8) *within the distance to airports set by the federal aviation administration unless the landfill owner or operator demonstrates that the federal aviation administration does not object to construction and operation of the landfill at the proposed site;*
- (9) *within 50 feet of the facility property boundaries nor within 500 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church, or unless, in the case of registered unpermitted landfills, the permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or place of worship was constructed after the landfill began operations;*
- (10) *in an active alluvial fan (i.e., areas being currently aggraded by either permanent or intermittent streams;*
- (11) *within areas that will result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of endangered or threatened species as identified in either 50 CFR Part 17 or by the New Mexico department of game and fish in its most recent biennial review;*
- (12) *within seismic impact zones, unless the owner or operator demonstrates that all containment structures, including liners, leachate collection systems, and surface water control systems, are designed to resist the maximum horizontal acceleration in lithified earth material for the site; or*
- (13) *within an unstable area, unless the owner or operator demonstrates that engineering measures have been incorporated into the landfill design to ensure that the integrity of the structural components of the landfill will not be disrupted.*