

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 for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) by submitting an application ([Form CCC-1200](#)) to their local [NRCS field office](#). Applications are currently being accepted.

Through EQIP, a producer can apply for a practice called Emergency Animal Mortality Management. Through NRCS in Minnesota, this practice includes these options 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	AU	\$113.43	\$136.11
Incineration	AU	\$219.88	\$263.86
Disposal at Landfill or Render	Pounds	\$.05	\$.06

Conversion Factor: 1,000 lbs. = Animal Unit (AU)

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 it is the responsibility of the producer to

secure any necessary permits. Plans and permits may be required for each option. Contact the [Minnesota Board of Animal Health](#).

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.
- 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](#)).

Minnesota

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

