

## Where can I get info?

Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 601-  
Dead Animals  
[www.leg.state.or.us/ors/601.html](http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/601.html)

Disposal of Animal Mortality and  
Byproducts  
[www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/docs/pdf/  
animaldispose.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/docs/pdf/animaldispose.pdf)

**Oregon Department of Agriculture**  
Animal Health Division – Salem  
(503) 986-4680  
<http://oregon.gov/ODA/AHID>

Natural Resources Division – Salem  
(503) 986-4700  
<http://oregon.gov/ODA/NRD>

**Oregon Dept. of Environmental  
Quality**  
[www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/compost/index.  
htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/compost/index.htm)

[www.deq.state.or.us/about/locations.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/about/locations.htm)

## How do I file a complaint?

Call your local County Sheriff's office to  
report improper animal disposal. Tell them  
you want to file a complaint in reference to  
Oregon Revised Statute 601. Your county  
may also have its own ordinance.



*All publications produced by ODA will be made  
available in alternate formats when needed*

## Additional Internet Resources

### **A Low Maintenance Approach to Large Carcass Composting**

American Society of Agricultural Engineers Meeting  
Paper No. 032263.  
<http://tammi.tamu.edu/carcasscompostasae032263b.pdf>

### **Natural Rendering: Composting Livestock Mortality and Butcher Waste**

Cornell Waste Management Institute.  
<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/naturalrendering.htm>

### **Animal Mortality Facility**

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Conservation Practice Standard 316  
[ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-  
standards/standards/316.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/316.pdf)

### **Composting Facility**

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 317 [ftp://ftp-  
fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-  
standards/standards/317.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/317.pdf)

### **Carcass Disposal**

Minnesota Board of Animal Health  
[http://www.extension.umn.edu/administrative/  
disasterresponse/bmp96.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/administrative/disasterresponse/bmp96.html)

### **Whole Animal Composting of Dairy Cattle**

New Mexico Cooperative Extension  
[http://cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_d/D-108.pdf](http://cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/_d/D-108.pdf)

### **Composting Animal Mortalities**

University of Minnesota  
[http://www.mda.state.mn.us/  
animals/animals/composting.htm](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/animals/animals/composting.htm)

### **Carcass Disposal: A Comprehensive Review**

[http://fss.k-state.edu/featuredContent/  
CarcassDisposal/CarcassDisposal.htm](http://fss.k-state.edu/featuredContent/CarcassDisposal/CarcassDisposal.htm)

# LARGE ANIMAL MORTALITY



*Safe and legal  
disposal of animal  
carcasses*

Brochure available at:  
[www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/docs/  
pdf/water/large\\_animal\\_mortality.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/docs/pdf/water/large_animal_mortality.pdf)

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# Safe and Legal Disposal of Animal Carcasses



*These carcasses were disposed of illegally.*

## WHY IT MATTERS

It happens everyday. A cow or horse dies unexpectedly. Owners of these animals need to know that there are sound and appropriate ways to dispose of the carcasses.

Improper disposal of animal carcasses can pollute ground and surface water, and can jeopardize the health of livestock, wildlife and pets.

Carcass disposal must comply with the law. Disposal of animal carcasses is regulated under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 601. Some counties also have their own disposal-related ordinances.

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*ORS 601.140 states no person shall leave the carcass of any domestic animal within 1/2 mile of any dwelling or within 1/4 mile of any running stream of water for longer than 15 hours without burying or burning it.*

## WHAT TO DO

Fortunately, there are several methods to dispose of carcasses in a legal and safe manner.

### Burial

You may bury carcasses on your farm if the bottom of the hole is dry and the carcass is covered with hydrated lime. Carcasses should be buried at least 500 feet from surface waters or wells and have at least four feet of soil mounded on top to allow for settling as the carcass decomposes. Burial is not legal for disposing of commercial butcher waste.

Burial of large numbers of carcasses requires a Catastrophic Animal Mortality Management Plan. If carcasses are brought to your farm from other locations, you may be subject to additional regulations from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), or your local land-use planning agency.

### Landfill

Certain landfills are allowed to take carcasses as well as butchering waste. Call your local landfill to find out if they can accept animal carcasses. If the landfill does not, DEQ may grant an exception.

### Open Burning

Animal carcasses and byproducts cannot be open burned. Openly burning carcasses of animals that died or were destroyed because of an animal disease emergency is allowed only when authorized by ODA.

### Incineration

Animal mortalities and byproducts can be incinerated in a DEQ-approved incinerator or cremation unit. However, this option is not generally available and may be expensive.

### Natural Disposal

You must place the carcass at least 1/2 mile from any dwelling and at least 1/4 mile from any open waterway and let scavengers eat the carcass. This method is not legal for numerous carcasses or for disposal of commercial butcher waste. It is not recommended for *chemically euthanized animals* to prevent harm to predators. **It is illegal to leave carcasses on public lands.**

You need a large farm or ranch to make this work. Carcasses left on the ground or buried in shallow pits may pose a threat to ground or surface water or jeopardize the health of domestic animals or wildlife.



### Composting

Composting dead animals and byproducts allows you to recycle the nutrients in the carcasses and is a sound environmental practice. You must have a composting plan on file with ODA, and be implementing that plan. You may also need a DEQ permit.