

## KDHE Ready to Help with Carcass Disposal

For more information: KDHE Contact: Matthew Steele, Ph.D., P.E. Section Chief Livestock Waste Management Program 785-296-4039 [matthew.t.steele@ks.gov](mailto:matthew.t.steele@ks.gov) [kdhe.feedlots@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.feedlots@ks.gov)

### Options -

#### Carcass Burial

For carcass burial at facility-owned property, permittees shall contact the Livestock Waste Management Section with the proposed location and required start date. Upon approval, burial may begin with the following conditions:

- Burial pit locations shall be located with a minimum separation distance of 300 feet from waters of the State, public areas including roadways, and habitable structures. Distances to habitable structure may be reduced if owned by the permittee or a signed waiver is provided by the structure owner.
- Burial pits shall provide a minimum of 2.5 feet of soil cover and mounding to prevent ponding of precipitation upon the burial pit area.
- A minimum of 10 feet of separation between the bottom of the pit and groundwater.
- Burial pit shall not exceed 8 feet in depth.
- Burial pits shall be located a minimum of 1,000 feet from any public water supply and 500 from private wells.
- Pits shall be located in relatively flat areas with slopes less than 2%.
- Locations of burial pits and final carcass counts shall be recorded and submitted to the Department.
- Monthly inspections of the burial sites shall be conducted for 1 year or longer as required by pit and site conditions.
- Within 3 months of final deposition of carcasses of each pit perennial vegetation shall be established to prevent soil erosion.

#### Above Ground Burial

In addition to the traditional burial methodology provided above, the Mesophilic Composting method also referred to as above ground burial may be utilized with the following changes:

- Burial pit shall not exceed 3 feet in depth.
- A minimum 6 inches of carbon material (not manure) placed in the pit prior to placement of carcasses.

The mortality disposal changes will be evaluated after 90 days from initial permittee request and may be extended or withdrawn as COVID-19 pandemic conditions change.

Although, facilities follow a basic production model, each permittee and operation is unique. Thus, the Department is ready to work with each facility to address the needs and challenges that may be encountered during this difficult time.