
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: Resources for Disposal of Animal Carcasses During a Mass Mortality Event

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services emergency managers made public a web-based resource, the Carcass Management Dashboard, which focuses on depopulation, disposal, and disinfection for animal agriculture. This resource has multiple levels of information to assist producers in planning, preparedness, and response in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak, natural disaster or for other unexpected events such as the COVID-19 outbreak.

The resource is available at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/carcass-management/carcass>

Producers face varying threats to their production, and to effectively respond to those threats, current and relevant information must be accessible. There are many different sources and sites for information regarding carcass disposal and management. The USDA Carcass Management Dashboard consolidates key information into one website, accessible to the public.

The information, including protocols for methods of carcass disposal, locations of landfills and carbon sourcing, and other equipment needs to support timely disposal efforts, is critical during a mass mortality event.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) emergency managers to update the Carcass Management Dashboard in a timely manner to ensure the most accurate information is available to producers. The Dashboard should include updated information on carcass disposal methods from current and ongoing research specifically on carcass disposal to help ensure that all sectors of USDA are in agreement on approved methods for a mass mortality event and to provide these results in as near real-time as possible.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

USDA recognizes the concerns of USAHA and your support for the Carcass Management Dashboard. APHIS currently uploads new reports and other documents to the Carcass Management Dashboard as they are received. In the future, VS staff will review the dashboard

quarterly and identify if additional information should be uploaded. Currently, VS is evaluating options for annual updates to the landfill, rendering and incinerator location database.

FINAL RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, VS recognizes the concerns of USAHA and appreciates its support for the Carcass Management Dashboard. APHIS currently uploads new reports and other documents to the Carcass Management Dashboard as they are received. In the future, VS staff will review the dashboard quarterly and identify if additional information should be uploaded. Currently, VS is evaluating options for annual updates to the landfill, rendering, and incinerator location database. APHIS will incorporate U.S. Environmental Protection Agency new I-Waste data (expected release: fall 2021) to update the dashboard database.