



Practical Biosecurity Programs
Standard Biosecurity Protocol (SBP)
SBP 8

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Issued by: Perennia

Handling and Disposal of Mortalities

1. **Purpose:** To prevent disease transmission from poultry/mink/livestock mortality
2. **Responsibility:** Farm Staff
3. **Frequency:** Daily
4. **Biosecurity Protocols for Small Livestock**
 - 4.1 Mortalities are to be collected daily and recorded on a flock/herd record sheet



Picture 8.1, Vaillancourt, 2003



Picture 8.2, Vaillancourt, 2003

- 4.2 Staff should put on gloves prior to collecting mortalities
- 4.3 Each pen/shed should have a plastic bucket/container for mortality pickup (Picture 8.3)
- 4.4 Use the plastic bucket/container to collect and transport mortality from the pen or RAZ to the short term storage site
- 4.5 Cover the plastic container prior to leaving the RAZ
- 4.6 Mortalities are to be placed in a short term storage container (plastic barrel, freezer, etc.) until they are picked up for disposal (composting, incineration, burying, etc.)



Picture 8.3, Oderkirk, 2010



Picture 8.4, Oderkirk, 2010

4.7 Staff are to wash hands after handling mortalities (Pictures 8.5 & 8.6)



Picture 8.5, Oderkirk, 2010



Picture 8.6 , Vaillancourt, 2003

4.8 The mortality collection bucket/containers are to be sanitized regularly (once/week)

4.9 Short term mortality storage containers are to be sanitized after emptying



Picture 8.7, Vaillancourt, 2003



Picture 8.8, Oderkirk, 2010

Biosecurity Protocols for Large Livestock

- 4.10** Mortalities on a cattle operation are dealt with by burying the carcass on the farm. It is suggested that burial be conducted on the day the death occurs. The burial should occur in a location on the farm that is removed from pastures and waterways. Burial depth should be in the five to six foot range. It is at the farm manager's discretion whether the animal is sent to a pathology lab to determine the cause of death. The only time that this step is mandatory is when a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) is suspected. If a FAD is determined to be the cause of death, incineration is the approved method of disposal.

5. Biosecurity Deviation Protocol

- 5.1** If mortality is above normal, have your veterinarian or flock/herd health professional examine some of the birds for the cause of the problem
- 5.2** If the farm site is involved in composting manure/litter/bedding, the mortalities can be incorporated into this composting process and will compost readily

6. Biosecurity Records

Flock/herd mortality record sheets