



TIPS FOR HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF MORTALITIES – SMALL LIVESTOCK

Dead stock can be a major source of contamination both through already diseased tissue and as a posthumous host for other diseases. Dead tissue will also attract pests such as rodents. It is important to handle and dispose of mortalities properly and promptly to maintain the safety of other livestock and the workers.

- **All dead/culled birds should be considered infectious**
- **Collect all mortalities daily or as needed**
- **Record mortalities on flock/herd record sheet**
- **Wear gloves when collecting mortalities**
 - » Wash hands after handling mortalities
- **Place plastic bucket/container in each pen/shed for mortalities**
 - » Mortality collection container should be sanitized regularly (weekly)
- **Use bucket/container to transport mortality from pen to short term storage site**
 - » Ensure the lid of the container fits properly
 - » Short term mortality storage containers sanitized after emptying
- **Carcass disposal (incineration, composting and burial) should be performed in accordance with the Nutrient Management Act (2002)**
- **Compost disposal should be closely monitored according to composting guidelines**
- **Disposal should occur within 48 hours of death**
- **If the mortality rate is higher than normal or anything seems off, contact a veterinarian to help determine the problem**

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