Trench Burial Process

Excavate the Trench



Add Carbon Base



Place Carcasses on the Base



Cover Carcasses with 1 ft. of Carbon



Mississippi Board of Animal Health

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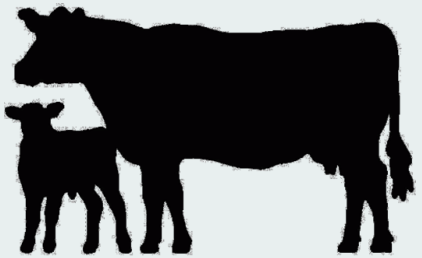
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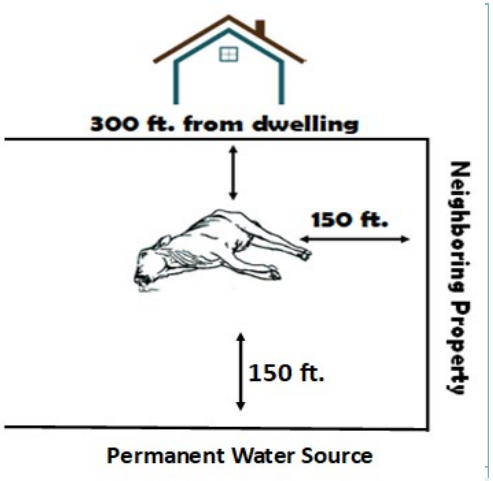
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PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF MISSISSIPPI'S LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

LIVESTOCK CARCASS AND OFFAL SHALLOW TRENCH BURIAL



PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF MISSISSIPPI'S LIVESTOCK & POULTRY



Shallow trench burials are safe for routine burial of animal carcasses.

Producers should plan their response to animal death on their property to prevent illegal disposal and harm to people, other animals and the surrounding environment.

Animal carcasses should be disposed of within 24 hours of death.

Catastrophic animal losses should be reported to the MS Board of Animal Health.

Losses greater than 10 animals require Disposal Permit from the Board of Animal Health.

STEPS FOR DISPOSING OF ANIMAL CARCASSES

- Report to authorities as required
- Choose the appropriate method
- Address biosecurity concerns in all aspects of planning, construction and operation.

Board of Animal Health Regulations
Carcass(es) shall be buried on the owner's property, or on another's property with specific approval of the owner, or in permitted landfills. The carcass(es) shall be buried at least 150 feet from adjoining landowners property, at least 300 feet from an inhabited dwelling, or on land not in cultivation. All carcasses shall be buried before the end of the work day unless weather or environmental conditions absolutely prohibit.

Shallow Trench Burial
Carcasses are placed in unlined pits or trenches that are then backfilled with excavated soil. This is a type of aboveground burial system. See Figure 1.

Identify suitable soils. The bottom soil should be highly impermeable, without fractured or cavernous rock. Carcasses should not be buried or left in highly permeable soils.

- Set up a staging area to avoid moving animals near roadsides or waterways. Staging areas should be surfaced with 12 to 18 inches of carbon base (wood shavings, hay, sawdust, cotton gin trash, horse bedding, compost or other materials) that can contain liquids.
- Avoid burial sites with seasonal high groundwater and shallow aquifers and away from public and private wells.
- Check for buried utility lines.
- Place and maintain 2 feet of impermeable mounding soil over the carcasses.
- Keep records on the locations and number of carcasses buried.

(source: Mukhtar, S. 2012. *Routine and Emergency Burial of Animal Carcasses, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.)*

BENEFITS

- Reduces pollution impacts to surface water and groundwater resources
- Reduces odor
- Decreases the spread of pathogens
- Commonly available farm equipment resources can be

Figure 1. Cross section of aboveground burial system

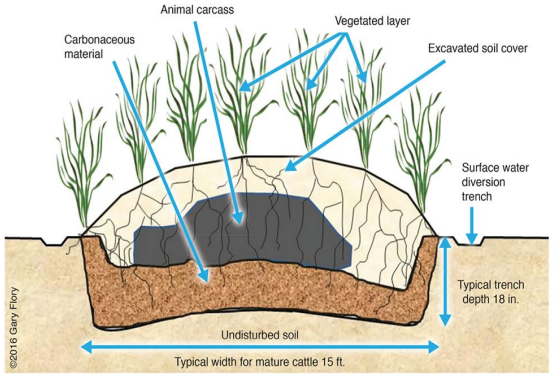


Image from Gary A. Flory: USDA/APHIS Disposal Discussion Group. February 8, 2017.