



Emergency Mortality Disposal Advisory

August 21, 2020

Disposal of Mortalities Unsuitable for Rendering

The following information has been provided from a variety of agencies including CDFA, RB-5, CalRecycle, various county agricultural commissioners and divisions of environmental health and rendering companies. It represents our best understanding of current requirements, but these may change without notice.

Summary

- The current heat event has strained the state's rendering capacity.
- Some producers have carcasses that have not been picked up and have deteriorated beyond the point at which they can be processed at the rendering plant. These carcasses will likely never be retrieved by a dead hauler.
- CDFA directs producers with such decomposed carcasses to contact their local landfill and inquire if they are receiving emergency mortalities. If they are, the carcasses may be transported to the landfill by either the producer or licensed dead hauler. Contact information for local landfills is provided in a chart below.
- If the local landfill is not accepting emergency mortalities, producers may temporarily store them in compost piles on the dairy. CDFA, in consultation with CalRecycle and regional board, will provide guidance in the near future as to the final disposition of the composted material, meaning either landfill or land application.

Background

Since mid-August California has experienced an unusually intense and protracted heat event, with temperatures significant enough for the Governor to proclaim a [State of Emergency](#). In addition to an increase in heat-related animal mortalities, the situation has been exacerbated by a mechanical issue at one rendering plant and a landfill temporarily closed due to wildfire smoke in another. All three of the state's rendering companies that process deadstock have implemented mitigation measures including diversion of non-carcass material to other plants, increasing route frequency and augmenting transfers from collection centers. In spite of these efforts however, rendering capacity has been strained and some carcass stranded at the farm have deteriorated to the point they can no longer be handled by rendering machinery.

What should producers with decomposed carcasses do?

If a renderer or dead hauler service refuses to retrieve certain decomposed carcasses, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) advises producers to take following action:

Contact the local county landfill – Use the table below to identify which county landfill might accept animal carcasses. Landfill availability is very fluid right now, with new facilities receiving permission to accept carcasses daily. If the local landfill is accepting livestock carcasses, either the producer or a licensed dead hauler can transport them to the landfill during working hours. Producers should **CALL FIRST** before transporting the carcasses to the local landfill, to avoid being turned around at the gate. Producers transporting their own fresh mortalities to a local

landfill are cautioned not to have liquid or solid organic matter spill onto the roadway, which could result in fine by local law enforcement. Alternatively producer might choose to engage services of a licensed dead hauler. A list of haulers that provide services to dairies in the past also appears below.

Compost mortalities on the dairy – If the local landfill is not currently accepting carcasses they may be temporarily stored on-site at the dairy in a composting pile. This mitigates the immediate nuisance problem of decomposing carcasses by the roadside, kills common human and animal pathogens and creates a more manageable material for landfills. After the composting process is complete and no later than six (6) months from starting the composting process, the composted materials will be required to be disposed of. CDFA will provide guidance in the near future as to the final disposition of the composted material, meaning either transportation to a landfill or used for land application. The Central Valley Water Board requires that a 2-page notice of intent be filed within 30 days of starting the composting. Producers may contact their trade organization for assistance in filling this out.

What are acceptable practices for on-site composting?

Several guides for composting cattle mortalities are available on-line including USDA and Extension Bulletins from [Michigan State](#) and [New Mexico State](#). Research by the University of California suggests dairy manure (either dry-lot scraping or screened manure solids having a moisture content ranging from 25% to 70% is an effective composting feedstock. In California the date, number and identity of cows composted and subsequently transported to landfill should be documented to answer any future regulatory inquiries. An impervious layer such as a concrete pad or a waterproof liner should be used to protect groundwater from infiltration. Adult carcasses should be placed on a 3-footbed of dairy manure and covered with 3 feet of the same material. The site of the temporary piles should be protected from inundation, washout, runoff, ponding, and scavenging wild animals. The temporary pile should be at least 50 feet from any domestic well. Be sure to keep and maintain records to document that the composted material was taken to a landfill within 6 months. RB-5 staff will be looking for evidence of bones and carcasses that have been left for more than 6 months and checking for landfill disposal records during future inspections.

Burial on the farm?

Producers in any Central Valley county may **NOT** permanently bury mortalities on farm unless they obtain a [permit](#) from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Such a permit includes a copy of the county's emergency declaration, an annotated map, photographs and management plan for the site. The current fee for such a permit is approximately \$4,000 dollars.

Records

Both CDFA and RB5 require that producers record the final disposition of each carcass not sent to rendering. This will help protect producers from regulatory confusion and potential fines. Records must be maintained for at least five years.

California Dairy Quality Assurance Program

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Local landfill contact information, County-by-County

| County | Emergency Declaration Status Tracking | Landfill name | Landfill location | Landfill contact | Important Information |
|------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| Kern | Not planned* | Bena Landfill | 2951 Neumarkel Road, Edison, CA 93220 | Terence Dozier, site engineer Phone number: 661-809-4456 Email: doziert@kern county.com | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only accepting carcasses with the issuance of quarantine notice from the state vet. • Needs 44hrs advance notice and projected volume of product prior to transport. • Coordination is required to ensure equipment is available at the correct receiving site. • Delivery is preferably between 6 and 8 am. • Proof of residence is required • Cattle from outside Kern County will not be accepted. • Tipping fees are \$70 ton. |
| | | | | | <p>*County hasn't declared any emergency for carcass disposal in the past due to county EH's concern of onsite burial as a result of emergency declaration. The disposals at the landfills can go forward without a formal declaration by the BOS.</p> |
| Stanislaus | County landfill permit already allows emergency disposal. | Fink Landfill | 4000 Fink Road, Crows Landing CA 95313 | Main line phone number: 209-837-4800 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the fire, as of 8/21, it is only open to accommodate the franchise haulers and emergency loads such as dead animals (Stanislaus County animals only). This information is subject to change as circumstances evolve. • Prior notification is required. • Coordination is required to ensure carcasses can be buried immediately upon delivery. • Proof of residence is required. • Cattle from outside Stanislaus County will not be accepted. • Special handling tipping fees are \$110/ton. |
| | | <p>Visalia Landfill located in Tulare County was made available to Stanislaus County during the March 2020 rendering disruption event. Please see Visalia Landfill listed below for more information.</p> | | | |
| Madera | | Fairmead Landfill | 21739 Road 19 Chowchilla CA 93610 | Drake Montgomery, site engineer Phone number: 559- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By appointment only and prior notification is required. • No LEA approval or county emergency declaration is needed to take carcasses. |

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| | | | | 665-7300 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination is required to ensure equipment is available at the correct receiving site. • As a “special” waste, the tipping fees are \$150/ton. • Willing to take carcasses from other counties during emergency. |
| San Joaquin | | Foothill Landfill | 6484 N. Waverly Road, Linden, CA 95236 | Robert McClellon, Solid Waste Program Coordinator Phone number: 209-468-0332 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small animals can be accepted. Large animals will need LEA approval. • Prior notification is required. • Coordination is required to ensure equipment is available at the correct receiving site. • Shipment needs to be delivered by 2 pm. • Tipping fees are \$39.66/ton. • Proof of residence is required. • Cattle from outside San Joaquin County will not be accepted. |
| Tulare | Emergency declared on 8/19/20 | Visalia Landfill | 8614 Ave 328, Visalia, CA 93291 | Main line: 559-624-7155 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole carcasses are not allowed to be sent to these landfills at this time until further notice. • Tulare County landfills will only accept composted animals at this time. The county states that they want the carcasses to compost for about three months or so before they come to the landfill. • A waiver process from LEA must be initiated to allow whole carcass disposal at this landfill. |
| Kings | Emergency declared on 8/20/20. | Chemical Waste Management | 35251 Old Skyline Road Kettleman City, CA 93239 | Phone: (559) 834-9151 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced notification prior to acceptance is required. • Notification to LEA is required. |
| Fresno | Emergency declared on 8/20/20 | City of Clovis landfill | 15679 Auberry Road Clovis, CA 93611 | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to CalRecycle, both landfills can only accept carcasses with a waiver from the LEA. • However, a phone call with American Avenue Disposal Site indicated that they don’t take carcasses. Phone number for City of Clovis Landfill has not been provided by Calrecycle yet. |
| | | American Avenue disposal site | 18950 W American Ave. Kerman, CA 93630 | (559) 600-4259 | |

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| Merced | Emergency declared on 8/19/2020 | Billy Wright Disposal Site | 17173 S Billy Wright Road, Los Banos, CA 95348 | John Costa, site supervisor Contact Phone: 209-826-1163 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large animal carcasses are prohibited (over 200 lbs. in weight, such as horses, cattle, deer, large dogs, and similar sized animals). Would need a waiver to accept the dead animals. • Call prior to delivery, which should be made before 2:30 P.M. • Tipping fees are \$128/ton. • Proof of residence is required. • Cattle from outside Merced County are not accepted. • Daily capacity is 60/80 tons. • For Highway 59 Landfill only - |
| | | Highway 59 Landfill | 7040 Highway 59 Merced, CA 95348 | Maine line: 209-723-4481, extension 210, or extension 212 for the Operation Manager | |

Carcass Transportation

Some producers may wish to transport carcasses to local landfill themselves, is permissible. Alternatively CDFA has provided a [current list](#) of licensed dead haulers. While we can't endorse any particular company, contact information for several dead haulers with dairy clients appears in the table below.

Partial list of dead haulers with dairy clients.*

| Company / Contact | Phone | Region |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Dairyman Hide Company Eric Tatham | 559-994-3226 | Based out of Madera, carcasses are transported to Sacramento Rendering. Producers can drop off carcasses at his collection center for half the price. |
| Sisk Tallow Manuel Cunha | 209-667-1451 | Based out of Turlock, transported to Sacramento Rendering. Drop-off facilities in Turlock and Oakdale |
| Branco Cattle Joe Branco | 209-777-4695 | Based out of Merced could probably serve impacted Baker clients Madera in as well. |
| Moniz Tallow Company Maurice Moniz | 209-259-9134 209-595-9084 | Based out of Hilmar, serving Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced. Carcasses transported to Darling Inc. No drop off. |
| RT Deceased Animal Transport Richard Toland | 661-301-2477 | Based out of Bakersfield, usually does horses but is equipped to pick up multiple cow carcasses. No drop off. |
| Stiles Animal Removal Stephen Stiles | 909-390-9828 | Based out of Ontario. No longer serving Kern County. Transported to Darling. |

* CDQAP is providing this information for use by producers does not represent a recommendation or endorsement of any particular company. Companies usually request notice in advance of drop-offs. Drop off at collection center may be half the price of pick up on dairy, say \$75 vs \$150 /cow. There may be additional charges for carcasses with more advanced decomposition.

Producers with questions can contact Dr. Michael Payne at 530-304-9306 or mpayne@ucdavis.edu

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