

Safe Practice: Removing a carcass



Discussion Date:

Supervisor:

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the Occupational Safety web page.

General Information

Occasionally, animals will die in a pen or stall. Deceased animal removal and disposal must be completed within 24 hours to meet the operation's disease and biosecurity objectives, as well as all local, state and federal environmental regulations.

Safety tips when removing a carcass

- Remove as soon as possible.
 It becomes increasingly difficult to remove the carcass the longer the animal is deceased.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
 - o gloves
 - o boots
 - coveralls
- If for some reason, contact without gloves has been made, wash hands with soap and water.
- Use care not to strain or pull your muscles. Lift with your back in an upright position using your legs
- Use a mechanical device such as a cart to help with the removal. If a
 mechanical device is not available, use a snare or rope to remove the
 carcass.
- Large carcass removal should be at a minimum a two-person process using a machine such as a skid-steer loader or tractor.
- Ensure the path out of the building is clear and free of obstructions.
- Know the method of animal disposal; landfills, rendering, composting, or incineration and the state regulations associated with each type of disposal.

Precautions

- Do not physically lift or pull the animal carcass.
- Do not burn the animal carcass on the property.
- Do not bury or otherwise dispose of animal carcasses near a well, surface water, or areas of high groundwater.

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