



Conservation Practice Overview

Animal Mortality Facility (Code 316)

An animal mortality facility is an on-farm facility for the treatment or disposal of livestock and poultry carcasses for routine and catastrophic mortality events.

Practice Information

An animal mortality facility is designed to reduce the impacts to soil and groundwater resources, reduce the impacts of odors, and decrease the spread of pathogens associated with animal mortality.

The on-farm methods for disposal of routine animal mortality are composting and incineration/gasification. Routine mortality can also be rendered off-site (at the producer's expense). An animal mortality facility can include a refrigeration unit to store the mortality until it is removed for rendering or until it is incinerated or gasified.

Disposal of mortality from catastrophic events can be done by composting or burial, however, State laws may affect use of these techniques. Disease-related catastrophic mortality disposal must be performed under the guidance of State or Federal authorities.

Design information for this practice includes site location, design sizing, storage period, and safety/biosecurity features. It may also include fabricated structure criteria.

This practice has a minimum expected life of 15 years. Operation requirements for the facility depend on the type of facility chosen by the producer and will include provisions for proper disposal of residual material. Routine maintenance is needed to ensure that the facility operates as designed.

Common Associated Practices

An Animal Mortality Facility (316) is commonly applied with practices such as Diversion (362), Roofs and Covers (367), Composting Facility (317), and Critical Area Planting (342). Disposal of composted material and by-products from incineration or gasification will be performed in accordance with the Nutrient Management (590) practice.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

