

Carcass Disposal Methods

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INTRODUCTION

The carcasses of animals may be a source of pathogens and atmospheric pollution. The carcasses which may be affected with infectious diseases are disposed off taking all the preventive measures so as not to disseminate the infection to the environment.

The common method of disposal of carcasses are:

Surface burning: It is useful if the number of animals to be cremated is large. A trench of size (90 cm x 30 cm with a depth of 40-50 cm) is dug. The length of trench varies with the number of carcasses to be cremated. The carcasses are covered with kerosine, paraffin, wood and straw and burnt.

Burning in a trench: The carcass is burnt in a specially designed trench. A trench of size (7 x 5 x 1.5 feet) is prepared. At its bottom, another trench of size (7 x 4 x 2.5 feet) is dug. The smaller trench is filled with straw soaked with paraffin, wood pieces and kerosine oil. Iron bars are placed on the smaller trench. Carcass is placed over these iron bars in the larger trench. The carcass is covered with wood, straw, grass and tree branches and the fuel in the lower trench is ignited.

Burial method: The carcass is buried deep in the soil. A pit of 6-8 feet or more is dug for larger carcasses. The surface area required for horse is about 2-2.5 square meter; for cattle is 1.25-2 square meter and for sheep/pig is 0.84 square meter. The carcass along with contaminated material should be buried in the pit. The carcass should be covered with quick lime and atleast 4' soil above it so that dogs may not dig up the carcass. The pit should be away from the residential, water and well areas.

Incineration: The carcass is incinerated in an incinerator at a very high temperature (1300°C). The large carcass can be dismembered into pieces. It depends on continuous electricity and has a high cost but it is a very hygienic method as bad odour and fumes are not experienced in the surrounding area.

Rendering: The carcasses which do not pose any health hazard are rendered into harmless and useful byproducts like fat, meat meal, bone meal etc. The processing of rendering involves wet (autoclaving/steam) or dry (heat) methods for releasing the fat component from

the tissues. The remainder material is used for meat meal and bone meal. Meat meal is a rich source of Vitamin B, protein and minerals. Bone meal is a rich source of calcium and phosphorus.

Composting: It is an economically friendly practice. It is brought about by aerobic bacterial action on the wastes. The silos may be constructed in horizontal or tower form. The carcasses are dumped into the silos and covered with straw-horse manure mixture as a bulking agent and carbon source. Composting can be achieved in 6-12 months. The final product is used as a fertilizer.