

# Large Animal Carcass Options in Chisago County



- **Best option is burying on site conforming to rules found below.**
- **Leroy Job's Trucking, Sherburne County, will pick up carcasses for \$180 to \$225 for mass burial in Elk River Landfill, (612) 245-6085.**
- **Midwest Cremation Service, Anoka, will pick up for individual cremation, horses cost \$1500, maybe less for smaller animals, (763) 753-5510.**

Options are more limited than in the past. Carcasses must be disposed of as soon as reasonably possible. Hauling off into the bushes is not legal. Vehicles hauling carcasses must be leak-proof, covered, inspected & permitted unless owner is hauling. MN Board of Animal Health (BAH) options:

## Composting

- *Comments:* Carcasses are placed in layers with carbon source (hay or woodchips) and allow natural heating process to break them down. Works well. Require a permit from the BAH.  
*Rules:* allowed for swine, sheep goats poultry; and by permit for cattle, horses or exotic animals. Requires impervious pad, rot resistant walls and roof.

## Rendering:

- *Comments:* Becoming harder to find due to cost to pick up single animals, changes in regulations on which carcasses can be rendered (no bovines over 30 months), and rendering companies will only pick up in larger agricultural counties.
- *Rules:* Pick up site must hold carcass in animal proof enclosure, must be 200 ft. from neighbor, and must be picked up within 72 hours

## Burial:

- *Comments:* Hard for large animals and in the winter, and requires use of large equipment.
- *Rules:* Must stay 5 ft. above seasonal high water level. Can not bury near lakes, rivers, streams, ditches; or in sandy, Karst, or flooding areas. Carcasses must be covered with dirt.

## Incineration:

- *Comments:* Expensive and harder for large carcasses.
- *Rules:* Must be in an MPCA approved incinerator, can not dispose of in burn pile.

## Other:

- *Pet food processing:* Rules: requires permit and inspection of carcass and facility.
- *Landfilling:* Some landfills allow and some do not. The East Central Solid Waste Commission in Mora allows deer carcasses, but NOT large animal carcasses.
- *Fur Farm consumption:* Requires permit with sanitary conditions.
- *Digester:* Allowed at the U/MN Vet Diagnostic Lab.

**Contact Info:** Lisa Thibodeau, Chisago County Solid Waste Administrator (651) 213-8923

**Websites:** University of Minnesota Extension: [www.extension.umn.edu/HorseProgram/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/HorseProgram/)  
Minnesota Board of Animal Health: [www.bah.state.mn.us/bah/carcass-disposal/index.html](http://www.bah.state.mn.us/bah/carcass-disposal/index.html)