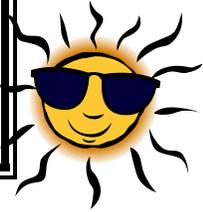




Countryside Veterinary Clinic August 2018 Newsletter



Animal Disposal Issues

Peter G. Ostrum, DVM

As many of you are aware, “Scooby” and “JC” rendering are no longer picking up deceased farm animals. Needless to say, this is creating more stress within our local dairy community. According to our state veterinarian, a horse that was euthanized with sodium pentobarbital was allowed to enter a northeast regional pet food facility. As a result, several dogs died after eating the tainted meat. Because of this incident the pet food manufacturer has greatly curtailed its procurement of animal carcasses from our local renderers. Horses and cattle that are euthanized with sodium pentobarbital must always be buried on the farm. Never are they to be used for pet food. For cattle, gun shot or captive bolt are still the preferred methods for on-farm euthanasia.

State officials are trying to remedy the current situation but for now other methods of carcass disposal must be utilized. Burying or composting appear to be the best methods immediately available. Please refer to the letter from David Smith, DVM, Director of New York State Division of Animal Industry for further comments regarding this important topic. *(printed on other side)*

Our clinic will keep you posted as updates become available from the state veterinarians.

YOU'RE INVITED to a **PICNIC**

**Countryside Veterinary Clinic's
Farmer Client Appreciation Picnic!**



**Thursday August 30th
7:00 p.m. till ?
Lewis County Fairgrounds**

**Lewis County Farm Bureau presentation of
2018 Senior Farmer Award at 8:00 p.m.**

We don't want to run out of food so please help us get close to correct number by calling (315-376-6563) texting (315-523-2488) or (Neil Ardison) emailing lowvilleoffice@countryside-vet.net with how many adults and how many kids will be attending. **Door prizes will be given out – BUT you need to be on the reservation list in order to be able to win!** *(Make sure you sign in with clinic staff sometime that night!)*

Read our newsletters: Remember that if you spot your name in our newsletter and call us within 5 days of the billing date, we will give you a \$10.00 credit on your bill.

Over ->

Mortality Disposal Guidance

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has issued a letter to New York dairy and livestock producers signed by David Smith, DVM, Director, Division of Animal Industry, with [Mortality Disposal Guidance](#).

Many of you are aware that companies that have been picking up dead stock from farms have halted pick-ups. The NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) is discussing the situation with the companies to determine a course of action regarding the disposal of downed and dead animals. In the meantime, New York producers will need to consider other methods of disposal. The following information is provided as guidance; however, these activities may also be subject to local law.

On- Farm Burial

On-farm burial may be a viable option for many farms. New York Agriculture and Markets Law has the following provisions for disposal. These provisions are applicable to all farms, including farms operating under a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit. https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AI/AILaws/Article_26_Circ_916_Cruelty_to_Animals.pdf

§ 377. Disposal of dead animals.

(1) The carcasses of large domestic animals, including but not limited to horses, cows, sheep, swine, goats and mules, which have died otherwise than by slaughter, shall be buried at least three feet below the surface of the ground or otherwise disposed of in a sanitary manner by the owner of such animals, whether the carcasses are located on the premises of such owner or elsewhere. Such disposal shall be completed within seventy-two hours after the owner is directed to do so by any peace officer, acting pursuant to his special duties, police officer, or by a designated representative of the commissioner.

(2) Notwithstanding section forty-one of this chapter, any violation of this section shall constitute a violation. This section shall not apply to animal carcasses used for experimental or teaching purposes.

The Department also recommends the following considerations for onsite burial:

- Locate onsite mortality management activities so that prevailing winds and landscape elements minimize odors and protect visual resources.
- Locate the facility down-gradient from springs or wells whenever possible; at least 200 feet from wells and open water; above the 100-year floodplain elevation; and avoid areas with seasonally high-water tables. (Please note that State law requires that the highest part of the buried animal must have at least 3 feet of soil over it and burial must occur within 72 hours.)
- Onsite mortalities should not be disposed in liquid manure storages.
- Any farm operating under a CAFO permit must carefully observe the provisions of the permit and the farms Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), including working with their AEM Certified Planner.

On-Farm Composting

You may also choose to compost dead animals.

Farms operating under a CAFO permit that choose to compost must do so in accordance with the 2014 Cornell Waste Management Institute recommendations "[Composting Animal Mortalities](#)" or the NY 316 NRCS Standards as planned in their CNMP.

For non-CAFO farms, you may compost mortalities on-site without a permit using [2014 Cornell Waste Management Institute recommendations](#). In addition, under State law, up to 10 carcasses per year can be from [off-site](#) sources, and the animal carcasses must be placed within the compost pile on the day received (6 NYCRR Part 360-3.2(a)(4)). To handle additional off-site animals, the farm must obtain a [solid waste management facility registration](#) under 6 NYCRR Part 360-3.2(b)(3).

Animal Health Best Practices

The Department strongly recommends the following precautions:

- Be decisive when it's time to cull an animal. Make the decision early while the cow is still marketable. With disposal being more difficult now, it's more likely that every dealer, market, and slaughter buyer will be refusing marginal (weak/nonthriving) calves and cull cows for fear that they will not make it successfully all the way to slaughter.
- If chemical euthanasia is used to dispatch an animal on the farm, the option for composting might be restricted due to chemical exposure to birds of prey, scavengers and neighbors' free-roaming dogs. You must take precautions to be sure that dogs, cats, and wildlife cannot gain access to the animals being composted.
- Do not delay burial or encasement in a composting bed. The longer you wait to deal with a mortality, the more difficult the carcass will be to handle and the chances of spreading disease will increase.