

## **Dead Animal Disposal Advisory**

As floodwaters recede, emergency officials expect that a number of animal carcasses, including pets, wildlife and livestock, are likely to be found. People in flood affected areas should avoid contact with dead animals to protect their personal and public health and safety.

Services are being coordinated among various local and state agencies to see that carcasses are disposed of properly. Along state roads and highways, the Tennessee Department of Transportation will continue routine small animal and wildlife pick up and disposal services.

Farm owners who have suffered livestock losses should promptly dispose of livestock in accordance with state law and as directed by the State Veterinarian. Farm owners should dispose of carcasses within 48 hours of the discovery of the dead animal, regardless of weather conditions. Options for disposal of dead farm animals and general guidelines include:

- On-farm Burial – Generally, a farmer may bury deceased livestock without a permit provided that burial is on-site and less than one acre in size. To protect water quality, on-farm burial sites should be:
  - More than 300 feet from well heads,
  - More than 165 feet from a property line or public use area,
  - More than 100 feet from waters or wet weather conveyance,
  - More than 2 feet above bedrock and the groundwater table.
- Landfilling – Farmers may dispose of dead farm animals in Class I landfills in Tennessee. Please contact your local landfill for more specific information about restrictions.
- Rendering – Rendering companies may offer on-farm service to pick up dead animals, but service may be limited to certain counties and restrictions may apply depending on the age and type of livestock.

People in flood affected areas who encounter dead animals or unclaimed dead livestock should contact their county services for disposal assistance.

Farmers who experience catastrophic or large number of livestock losses should notify the Tennessee Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian's Office at 615-837-5120.

## **Loose or Wandering Livestock Advisory**

People in flood affected areas may come in contact with farm animals that were displaced by rising waters. Loose or wandering livestock should be avoided for personal safety as animals may be distressed or become agitated. Loose or wandering livestock should be reported to local authorities such as the Sheriff's Office or county emergency management agency.

If local and county authorities are unable to respond or need assistance in dealing with loose, unclaimed livestock, assistance will be provided to them as requested through the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. The Department of Agriculture is prepared to provide technical assistance and to help identify resources and responders trained in handling livestock.