

# Key messages – Animal Disposal

## Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA) Update

23 March 2021

### Animal disposal

NSW DPI and Local Land Services work together to manage the effects of emergencies on agriculture, livestock and our community as Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA).

Following a natural disaster, such as floods, AASFA assists with animal assessments, stock euthanasia and disposal.

Disposal options are numerous and choices will be impacted by factors such as carcass/material type, quantity, condition, location, disease/pest, health and safety, community, environment, resources, cost, and time.

Onsite burial is the preferred option in most instances but where there are large mortalities or where onsite issues (e.g. size, soil type, water table etc.) are problematic, disposal through a licensed landfill is usually the next preferred option.

Improper carcass disposal can have significant impacts on environmental, human and animal health.

Poor carcass disposal can result in contamination of soil, ground water and water ways.

Access to poorly disposed carcasses can also allow for significant disease spread through scavengers, mosquitoes and vermin.

Carcass disposal should occur as soon as possible after the animal has died. Careful planning and management of disposal is important to ensure the safety of the community, other stock, the environment and to minimise the risk of disease spread.

Animal owners and managers have a legal responsibility to ensure that disposal of carcasses does not adversely affect the environment. The NSW EPA has guidelines to minimise environmental contamination and should also be consulted for advice when considering options for disposal.

Landholders should register for assistance with the **Agriculture and Animal Services hotline on 1800 814 647** if they need assistance with carcass disposal.

AASFA can assist with the removal and disposal of livestock from public and private land, these can be disposed of at local waste management facilities etc.

### Recording stock identifiers

For anyone disposing of livestock discovered on their own land or in a public area, that do not belong to them, it is important to get a record of any stock identifiers, to assist producers looking for lost animals.

Please note NLIS tag (if applicable), brand, ear markings, tags, notifiable features eg sex, colour, markings and report to **AASFA hotline 1800 814 647**

## Missing or stranded stock

Register with the Agriculture and Animal Services Hotline on 1800 814 647.

If you are searching for missing stock, please also contact your local council, animal welfare or rescue groups, microchip registry, and check social media sources such as local community noticeboards.

## More information

More advice on carcass disposal can be found at:

[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/798089/Primefact-Animal-carcass-disposal.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/798089/Primefact-Animal-carcass-disposal.pdf)

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For updates go to [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)