



Pork Industry Disruption Resources – COVID-19

Important information and resources for pork producers who are managing depopulation events caused by industry disruption from COVID-19 Pandemic

In partnership with Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Michigan Pork Producers Association

Holding pigs is the first option to consider.

Pork producers and their nutritionist should consider dietary changes (increased fiber, ground corn only, mineral salts or slight feed restrictions) to slow growth and keep hogs in the barn longer. [Iowa State University](#) provides some of the best resources when considering this practice.

Communicating plans to others

Pork producers or herd veterinarians are asked to confidentially share their plans for depopulation events with the [Michigan Pork Producers Association \(MPPA\)](#). MPPA has vital roles in knowing available resources and in public relations. Contact Mary Kelpinski, CEO via email at kelpinski@mipork.org or by phone at (517) 282-0970.

Euthanasia resources

The following resources are available to help guide producers when evaluating approved methods of euthanasia to employ during a depopulation or welfare culling event:

- [On-Farm Euthanasia of Swine Recommendations for the Producer](#) – National Pork Board
- [Recommendations for the Depopulation of Swine](#) – American Association of Swine Veterinarians
- [Animal Welfare Tools for Pork Producers](#) – National Pork Board webinar series

Approved methods for managing mortality in Michigan

The [Michigan Bodies of Dead Animals Act](#) (BODA; Act 239 of 1982, as amended) regulates the management of dead animals in Michigan. This law applies to all methods of disposal, even in emergency situations such as market disruption brought on by COVID-19. Under this act, there are realistically four alternatives for emergency dead animal disposal, with the last option pending, in Michigan:

- Off-site disposal
 - Landfill, Rendering or Incineration (MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory)
- On-site disposal
 - Composting, Burial or Mesophilic static pile (pending MDARD approval)
 - For on-site composting in excess of 20,000 pounds send email to Dr. Nora Wineland, MDARD State Veterinarian (WinelandN@michigan.gov).
 - Include farm name and address, number and description of animals to be euthanized and the planned disposal method.

Producers considering options for carcass disposal may find the following resources helpful as they develop their plan for mortality management. Michigan BODA regulations will apply to all disposal methods utilized.

- [Planning for Emergency Depopulation and Disposal](#) (National Pork Board webinar series)
- [USDA Carcass Management Dashboard and the USDA Carcass Management Calculator](#)
- [Spartan Emergency Animal Tissue Composting Planner](#)

To contact an expert in your area, visit msue.anr.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)



For additional information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/outreach

Financial assistance is available for producers that have depopulation events

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to pork producers for animal mortality disposal, that is an impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Information on the USDA-NRCS available funds can be found in the [Emergency Animal Mortality Management](#) document. Producers will need to review the USDA-NRCS guidelines for proper disposal of carcasses to receive financial assistance.

Eligibility guidelines for this funding including the following:

- Regardless of disposal method, if producers are seeking financial assistance, they must contact their [local NRCS office](#) prior to taking any steps towards disposal.
- To receive assistance, both an application and approved early start waiver **MUST** be filed with the local NRCS field office prior to disposal of animal carcasses.
- Producers must have farm records established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), meet all eligibility requirements, and have application filed at the local NRCS office.
- Payment limits. Contact the [NRCS office](#) at your local USDA Service Center for more information.

Take care of yourself and your employees

We understand that the current pandemic and economic situations are unprecedented and stressful for producers. The health and safety of our producers is the most pressing concern for organization supporting producers. Below are resources that focus on mental health and well-being.

- [Managing Farm Stress](#) - Michigan State University Extension
- [COVID-19 Mental Health and Well-Being Resources](#) – American Association of Swine Veterinarians

Additional resources

Answers to questions and additional resources are available by contacting:

Cheryl Collins – Swine Program Manager, MDARD (517) 284-5686 CollinsC3@michigan.gov

Dale Rozeboom – MSU Extension – Nutrition & slowing growth resource (517) 202-7415 rozeboom@msu.edu

Beth Ferry – MSU Extension – Managing production disruptions resource (269) 876-2745 franzeli@msu.edu

Madonna Benjamin – MSU Extension – Depopulation/euthanasia resource (517) 614-8875 gemus@msu.edu

Erica Rogers – MSU Extension – Mortality management resource (814) 441-1356 roger392@msu.edu

Dave Thompson – MSU Extension - Farm stress resource (269) 832-8403 thom1637@msu.edu

Sarah Fronczak – MSU Extension - Environmental consideration resource (517) 212-1043 froncza3@msu.edu

Casey Zangaro – MSU Extension - Small producer resource (785) 285 2127 zangaroc@msu.edu

Melissa Millerick-May – MSU Extension - Health & safety resource (248) 807-6253 milleric@msu.edu

To contact an expert in your area, visit msue.anr.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)

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