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Florida Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulation Handbook: Biological and Animal Waste Disposal¹

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How May I Dispose of Biological Waste?

Biological waste is defined in the Resource Recovery and Management Act as including, but not limited to, biomedical waste, diseased or dead animals, and other waste capable of transmitting pathogens to humans or animals. Other biological wastes are subject to lower standards of disposal than most other solid wastes. Because of the prevalence of agriculture in Florida, special rules apply to dead animals and poultry wastes.

How May I Dispose of the Carcasses of Dead Animals?

The carcasses of dead domestic animals may be

- burned.
- buried at least 2 feet deep.
- sold to licensed rendering companies.

Carcasses may not be dumped on any public road or right-of-way, nor left where they may be consumed by other animals.

The statute defines domestic animals as including horses, cattle, goats, sheep, swine, dogs, cats, poultry, or other domesticated beasts or birds.

How May I Properly Dispose of Poultry Waste?

Poultry wastes and residues may be:

- burned.
- rendered.
- fed to swine (after adequate heat treatment).
- buried.
- placed in a designated landfill.

If the waste must be transported to a disposal site, it must be placed in containers that are sealed to prevent spillage.

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This handbook is designed to provide an accurate, current, and authoritative summary of the principal Florida laws that directly or indirectly relate to agriculture. It should provide a basic overview of the many rights and responsibilities farmers and farmland owners have under Florida laws. The reader is provided information about these rights and responsibilities and the appropriate contacts for more detailed information. However, the reader should be aware that because the laws, administrative rulings, and court decisions on which this publication is based are subject to constant revision, portions of this publication could become outdated at any time. Many details of cited laws are also left out due to space limitations.

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