



**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

100 Centennial Mall North  
Federal Building, Rm. 152  
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

[www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov)

@NebraskaNRCS

Contact:

Conor Ward, EQIP Program Manager

[conor.ward@usda.gov](mailto:conor.ward@usda.gov)

(402) 437-4112

## **Funds from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Help Nebraska Pork Producers with Emergency Animal Mortality**

LINCOLN, Neb., April 24, 2020 – As some meat processing plants have had to adjust operations in response to COVID-19 guidelines, pork producers may need other options for their operations. The USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service has assistance available to help pork growers with proper handling of animal mortalities.

Through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program, commonly referred to as EQIP, producers can apply for assistance to properly dispose of livestock that cannot be processed. Applications are being accepted now for a special sign up.

NRCS State Conservationist Craig Derickson said, “This is an unprecedented time for our agricultural communities, including pork producers. Today’s challenges not only impact their bottom-line, they may need help in disposing of animals in an environmentally sound way. NRCS conservationists are available to provide technical and financial assistance to help producers handle livestock carcasses in a safe manner.”

Producers can apply for EQIP now. Producers will need to have a signed EQIP application and signed early start waiver prior to doing any carcass disposal.

“Typically, producers cannot begin working on an EQIP practice before their EQIP contract has been approved. But since this situation is time critical, NRCS is offering producers the option to sign up for EQIP first, then submit a waiver to begin animal disposal prior to having their EQIP contract approved,” Derickson said. “NRCS is committed to helping livestock producers through these trying times while also ensuring Nebraska’s natural environment remains healthy and productive.”

To apply and for more information about the programs and assistance available from NRCS, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit [www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov). Specialists with the USDA NRCS are working and available by phone and e-mail while taking safety measures in response to COVID-19. While access is restricted to the buildings, our services are still available via phone appointment or online.

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