

## Animal (Carcass) Disposal

Carcass disposal for dead cattle is an important, and legal, consideration for any feedyard. Federal, state and local regulations concerning the disposal and handling of the carcasses from animal mortalities should be reviewed as they vary between locations. An often overlooked aspect of carcass disposal is employee safety. Employees should be familiar with equipment used to move a carcass. If possible, do not use the same loader for carcass disposal as you use for feed. If this is unavoidable, the carcass should be moved without use of the bucket (as possible) and the loader should be washed and disinfected immediately after removing the carcass.

### Protocol for Animal Disposal

1. Pen riders or any employee of the feedyard should notify the doctoring crew as soon as a mortality (dead animal) is found.
2. Be prepared to give the pen number and the tag number of the deceased animal.
3. The Yard R&M crew will be notified and dispatched to retrieve the mortality with the pen grooming loader within 2 hours of being given the location of the dead animal.
4. The loader is to be brought in through the back gate of the pen with the gate shut while the mortality is being loaded to prevent animals from leaving the pen.
5. The dead animal will be moved from the pen in the loader bucket or by using a chain that is wrapped around both hind legs between the ankle and the hock and removed from the pen.
6. The mortality is then to be hauled to the dead pile or compost pile located on the Southwest corner of the feedyard.
7. The doctoring crew will be in charge of determining the cause of death as is outlined for them by veterinary services and recording it in the feedyard's animal health records.
8. The doctoring crew will be responsible for recording the pen number, ear tag number and description/cause of death of the animal in the feedyard's animal health records and notification of the office manager.
9. The doctoring crew should then contact the rendering service (render) or Yard R & M crew (compost) for final removal (rendering) or burial/composting of the mortality. The contact information is Render Co. 555-555-0987.

### REMEMBER

1. Safety first when operating large equipment. Know your equipment and what is around you.
2. When animals have been dead for a prolonged period of time, especially during warm weather, carcasses can decompose rapidly and become fragile to move.
3. Do not use the same loader to move carcasses that is used for feed if possible.