



Hardin County

Dead Animal Disposal

For animal pickup call:

Vendor - Hardin County Animal Removal

Phone Number - (270) 734-1336

Hardin County Fiscal Court appropriated an amount per month toward the cost of removing deceased livestock from farms in Hardin County. Hardin County Government will cover half of the cost of removal through Hardin County Animal Removal until the monthly funds are depleted.

Proper disposal of dead livestock is important to both human health and the health of the herd. Kentucky law regulates the proper disposal methods for dead farm animals through [KRS 257.160](#). Disposing of dead animals properly can also help control predator problems. Leaving livestock carcasses in pastures or open pits not only encourages predators to associate livestock with food, but also causes predators to congregate near farms.

Water quality concerns can also be addressed by using approved disposal methods. The [Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act](#) requires that all landowners with 10 or more acres must have developed and implemented a plan to prevent water pollution from their agriculture operations.

All deceased livestock animals must be properly disposed of within (48) hours after found, unless it is preserved in cold storage.

A Cause of Animal Death Statement may be required for disposal/removal of more than three animals at one time. This is necessary to prevent the spread of disease and protect animal health. If you have more than three animals to be removed at one time, contact your veterinarian before your proper disposal method. In cases of obvious non-disease causes of animal death (drowning, lightning strikes, etc.), the veterinarian may be able to furnish a verbal report to speed up the process of disposal/removing the carcasses.

Please see the KRS below that explains the disposal method of choice.

For additional information you may contact:

Hardin County Solid Waste & Recycling Dept.
Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
(270) 360-9207 ext. 1

257.160 Disposition of carcasses -- How and when made.

- (1) All carcasses of domestic livestock, poultry, and fish which have died or which have been destroyed on account of any disease, except as determined and permitted by the state veterinarian or other representative of the board, shall be disposed of by:
 - (a) Complete incineration of the entire carcass and all of its parts and products;
 - (b) Boiling the carcass and all of its parts and products in water or heating it with steam at a temperature above boiling, continuously for two (2) hours or more;
 - (c) Burying the carcass and all of its parts and products in the earth at a point which is never covered with the overflow of ponds or streams and which is not less than one hundred (100) feet distant from any watercourse, sinkhole, well, spring, public highway, residence, or stable. The carcass shall be placed in an opening in the earth at least four (4) feet deep, the abdominal and thoracic cavities opened wide their entire length with a sharp instrument, and the entire carcass covered with two (2) inches of quicklime and at least three (3) feet of earth.
 - (d) Removal of the carcass by a duly-licensed rendering establishment;
 - (e) Deposition of the carcass in a contained landfill approved pursuant to KRS Chapter 224;
 - (f) Composting of the carcass in a facility according to the board's administrative regulations and approved in accordance with KRS Chapter 224;
 - (g) Any combination of the methods set forth in paragraphs (a) to (f) of this subsection; or
 - (h) Any other scientifically-proven method of disposal approved by the board.
- (2) The owner shall dispose of the carcass of domestic livestock, poultry, and fish as provided in subsection (1) of this section, within forty-eight (48) hours after the carcass is found unless the carcass is otherwise preserved in cold storage.
- (3) The board is authorized to promulgate administrative regulations to implement this section.

Effective: June 25, 2009

History: Amended 2009 Ky. Acts ch. 22, sec. 14, effective June 25, 2009. -- Amended 1996 Ky. Acts ch. 58, sec. 2, effective July 15, 1996. -- Amended 1980 Ky. Acts ch. 188, sec. 233, effective July 15, 1980. -- Recodified 1942 Ky. Acts ch. 208, sec. 1, effective October 1, 1942, from Ky. Stat. sec. 63c-8.

257.990 Penalties

- (7) Any person who violates any of the provisions of KRS 257.160 shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for the first offense. For each subsequent offense, he shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or be imprisoned not more than thirty (30) days, or both.

Effective: July 15, 2010

History: Amended 2010 Ky. Acts ch. 106, sec. 10, effective July 15, 2010. -- Amended 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 225, sec. 11, effective July 12, 2006. -- Amended 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 120, sec. 2, effective July 15, 1994. -- Amended 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 97, sec. 6, effective July 13, 1990. -- Amended 1980 Ky. Acts ch. 188, sec. 234, effective July 15, 1980. -- Amended 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 296, sec. 3, effective June 17, 1978. -- Amended 1976 Ky. Acts ch. 167, sec. 2. -- Amended 1972 Ky. Acts ch. 244, sec. 3; and ch. 277, sec. 4. -- Amended 1970 Ky. Acts ch. 92, sec. 79. -- Amended 1948 Ky. Acts ch. 19, sec. 2 and ch. 165, sec. 7. -- Amended 1946 Ky. Acts ch. 86, sec. 2; and ch. 103, secs. 7 and 8. -- Amended 1942 Ky. Acts ch. 196, sec. 2. -- Recodified 1942 Ky. Acts ch. 208, sec. 1, effective October 1, 1942, from Ky. Stat. secs. 47, 47a, 63a11(5), 63c-2, 63c-3, 63c-4, 63c-5, 63c-6, 63c-8, 63c-11, 63c-14, 1332.