

## **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Guidance for the Management of HPAI Infected Bird Carcasses**

### **Background:**

The purpose of this document is to provide DEC regulatory guidance on the management and disposal of agricultural poultry carcasses (including waste generated from the handling and processing of the infected carcasses) that die from potential Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza viruses (HPAI) infection or that are culled to prevent the spread of the viruses.

In accordance with DEC regulations at 6 NYCRR Subpart 365-3, the carcasses of agricultural poultry that die or that are culled to prevent the spread of the HPAI disease are considered “other infectious waste”.

### **Management Options:**

The composting of animal carcasses at the site of generation is the preferred method for managing agricultural poultry carcasses. Farms that compost on-site are exempt from the 6 NYCRR Part 360 Series requirements (361-3.2(a)(4)). It is recommended that composting be done in accordance with the guidance from USDA and [Cornell Waste Management Institute](#). If composting on-site is not an option, the animal carcasses may be transported to another farm or off-site composting facility permitted to accept mortalities. Composting facilities accepting potential HPAI-infected carcasses should follow best management practices and keep piles with this waste stream segregated from typical operations. Please contact the USDA APHIS program for additional site management guidance.

If composting the waste is not an option, the animal carcasses must be transported to a permitted municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill or to a permitted municipal waste combustion (MWC) facility for disposal. A list of the permitted [MSW landfills](#) and [MWCs](#) including contact information is available on the DEC website. Entities managing agricultural poultry carcasses should contact the facility directly prior to transporting the waste to see if the facility is able and willing to accept this waste for disposal.

### **Packaging for Offsite Disposal:**

Agricultural poultry carcasses destined for a landfill must be packaged securely in 3 mil plastic bags, goose necked and taped closed and then double and triple bagged in the same manner. It is recommended that a disinfectant be applied to the outside of each bag. Agricultural poultry carcasses destined for disposal in a combustion facility must be double bagged in the above manner and then placed in rigid fiberboard or poly fiber boxes or drums.

### **Off-site Transportation:**

In accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 360 Series regulations, off-site transport of agricultural poultry carcasses from HPAI viruses must be by a permitted Part 364 transporter authorized to transport RMW and must meet all applicable Part 364 requirements. The vehicle and the destination facility that the carcasses are being transported to must be listed on the NYSDEC 6 NYCRR Part 364 permit, and a hard copy of the permit must be carried in the vehicle when transporting the waste.

### **Handling at Landfills and Combustion Facilities:**

With the proper packaging, labelling, and transportation by a Part 364 authorized waste transporter, agricultural poultry carcasses can be disposed of in MSW landfills or at MWCs. Landfills and MWCs must contact the regional DEC office to notify DEC of intent to accept waste.

When agricultural poultry carcasses are being placed in a landfill, USDA recommends that trenches be prepared prior to delivery of wastes and that the trenches be covered immediately after waste placement. USDA also recommends that landfill staff follow U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on PPE and establish cleaning and disinfection procedures. When being managed at an MWC, it is recommended that the boxes or drums of waste be direct charged to the combustor hopper.

### **Contact Information:**

For additional information on the management of agricultural poultry carcasses, please email [swmfprogram@dec.ny.gov](mailto:swmfprogram@dec.ny.gov) or call the DEC's Division of Materials Management at 518-402-8678.