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.

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.

Acknowledgments

The authors are indebted to the personnel of both state and federal agencies who gave their time and efforts to the preparation of this material.

1. This is EDIS document FE460, a publication of the Department of Food and Resource Economics, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, UF/IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Published December 2003. Please visit the EDIS website at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu.
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advice in the preparation of this handbook. The authors are also indebted to the following University of Florida personnel for a review and critique of the first draft of this publication: Dr. Thomas Dean, Pesticide Education Specialist, and Dr. Norman Nesheim, Pesticide Information Coordinator. Special recognition is also due to Mr. Richard Budell of the Office of Agricultural Water Policy of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for providing funds for the development of this handbook.

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.

This handbook is distributed with the understanding that the authors are not engaged in rendering legal or other professional advice and the information contained herein should not be regarded or relied upon as a substitute for professional advice. It is not all-inclusive in providing information to achieve compliance with laws and regulations governing the practice of agriculture. For these reasons, the use of these materials by any person constitutes an agreement to hold harmless the authors, UF/IFAS, the Agricultural Law Center, and the University of Florida for any liability claims, damages, or expenses that may be incurred by any person as a result of reference to or reliance upon the information contained in this publication.