

DEPOPULATION CHECKLIST

1. Determine source(s) of funding to equip, staff and operate the site.
2. Before deciding on depopulation and euthanasia/disposal method discuss all options with herd veterinarian(s) and your State Veterinarian office.
 - a. [State Veterinarian Contact Information](#)
 - b. Review AVMA and state regulations regarding animal cruelty and animal welfare
 - c. [AVMA Guidelines for Depopulation](#)
 - d. [AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia](#)
 - e. [USDA Animal Welfare Standard Operating Procedures](#)
3. Appoint a Depopulation Group Supervisor. Appoint a Safety Officer or make clear to the Depopulation Group Supervisor that this is part of their duties.
 - a. Develop safety protocols.
 - b. [USDA Depopulation Procedures](#) (Read Section 3)
 - c. [USDA National Animal Health Emergency Management Guidelines](#)
4. Appoint a Public Information Officer (PIO).
 - a. Referrals for all media requests or information inquiries should be direct to the PIO.
 - b. Have talking points and background information ready for the PIO.
5. Establish the operational period for depopulation and/or disposal.
6. Develop an operational plan and assignment list.
 - a. [FEMA Operational Planning Worksheet](#)
 - b. [FEMA Assignment List \(Form 204\)](#)
 - c. Use the [Pork Checkoff Depopulation Checklist](#) and the [Depopulation and Disposal Recording Form](#) to assist with decisions and record-keeping.
 - d. Determine the method that pigs/sites will be given priority access to the centralized depopulation site.
 - e. Estimate number of head to be depopulated over the operational period.
 - f. Match depopulation capacity with disposal capacity.
 - g. Estimate the carcass mass to be generated over the operational period.
 - h. Determine and list rationale for the primary depopulation method(s) selected to achieve the needed throughput for the operational period. (Use the [AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals: 2019 Edition](#).)
 - i. Determine how you will ensure death of all swine depopulated.
 - ii. Identify and have available a backup secondary method for depopulation if swine that are not rendered insensible by primary method(s).
 - iii. High-throughput options: [Pork Checkoff Euthanasia Guidelines](#)
 1. V-Restrainer with pneumatic captive bolt or electric-wand methodology (Consultant – Chuck Bildstein (Charles.Bildstein@bunzlusa.com) Need to account for:
 - a. V-Restrainer/pneumatic captive bolt or electric wand set-up
 - b. Adequate power for the site
 - c. Conveyer system(s) to move carcasses to conveyances (County Emergency Manager)
 - d. If no conveyers, heavy equipment to move and load carcasses (County Emergency Manager)
 - e. Tractor(s) / Skid loader(s) to transfer carcasses (County Emergency Manager)
 - f. Dump trucks for carcass removal (County Emergency Manager)

2. Carbon Dioxide (CO²) Depopulation (Consultant - Mark Rice <markrice429@gmail.com>) Need to account for:
 - a. Desired throughput
 - b. CO² Chamber design(s) (Custom vs. Available); (County Emergency Manager)
 - c. Contract [CO² Supplier](#) (County Emergency Manager/Vendor)
 - d. CO² bulk storage on site (County Emergency Manager/Vendor)
 - e. Generating CO²
 - i. Electric or fuel-fired vaporizer (commercial)
 - ii. Homemade low-cost vaporizer
 1. [Materials](#)
 - iii. High-pressure CO² tank to low-pressure CO² tank system
 1. [Materials](#)
 - iv. Ag Bag
 1. [Materials](#)
7. Locate available locations for depopulation with the following considerations: (Consult with County Emergency Manager.)
 - a. State Pork Associations, Public Information Officers, County Sheriff, County Emergency Manager or State Highway Patrol can be helpful with this.
 - i. The less visible the site is to the public, the better. Consider looking for a site with a wooded buffer.
 - ii. Consider requesting additional patrols or site security.
 - b. Seek legal counsel on nuisance protection, liability, etc.
 - c. Determine zoning of potential location.
 - d. Locate near disposal site if possible.
 - e. Need site that has power and water source to allow for electrical equipment use and for cleaning of equipment.
 - i. Site needs to be well-lighted and has good ventilation.
 - f. Seek site with adequate drainage to avoid issues with rain and mud as trucks move pigs and carcasses.
 - g. Need adequate facilities/lairage for safely handling medium to large numbers of swine being centralized for depopulation. For example:
 - i. Modern finishing barn (be sure that the slat structure will support all vehicles used in the barn)
 - ii. Sale barn/stockyards
 - iii. Livestock buying stations or livestock collection points
 - iv. Modern turkey barn
 - v. Closed slaughter processing plants
 - vi. Fairgrounds
 - h. Need adequate infrastructure to get conveyances and equipment to the depopulation site (e.g. hard-top or gravel road access, adequate bridges and roads for weight of conveyances).
 - i. Need site that has multiple access points to allow for both entrance and exit routes for trucks.
 - ii. If needed, develop preferred routing for traffic to and from the facility (i.e. avoid town roads or degraded roads).
 - i. Need adequate area and surface (e.g. concrete, gravel, blacktop) for staging conveyances, depopulation equipment and materials.
 - j. Determine facility ownership.
 - i. Privately owned - work with building/landowner to determine lease/compensation for the duration the building is out of use.
 - ii. Publicly owned – work out a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the use of the facility.
 1. Monthly short-term lease most desirable.
 - k. Once the site is located, alert all local officials to the existence of the site and the work to take place there:
 - i. County Sheriff and Law Enforcement in the Nearest Town
 - ii. Township Trustees
 - iii. Soil and Water Conservation District
 - iv. Farm Service Agency
 - v. Nearby businesses and farms

- l. Euthanasia chamber needs to be designed/located with ease of animal loading and carcass removal in mind.
 - m. Need to plan for carcass staging and loading on conveyances to be transferred to disposal site.
8. Determine labor, materials, supplies and equipment needed for each depopulation method (backup included) and approved site. [FEMA Operational Planning Worksheet \(Form 215\)](#); [FEMA Assignment List \(Form 204\)](#)
 - a. If applicable, work with County Emergency Manager (or equivalent) and State Veterinarian to acquire needed resources.
 - b. Will labor be hired, transferred from other work areas or contracted?
 - c. Determine work assigned for all labor and make sure all are trained to perform their job(s).
 - d. Determine work protocols and post them in multiple locations. Update them as often as the situation dictates.
 - e. Determine the work timeline and break schedule.
 - f. Provide water, food, portable toilets and safety equipment to all laborers.
9. Keep records and submit daily reports as directed by the State Veterinarian or the Depopulation Group Supervisor. [COVID-19 Swine Depopulation and Disposal Form](#)
10. Need "back up" plan. What is the plan if there's a rain event, or other type of circumstance that can't be controlled.

Assumptions:

- State Animal Health Official (SAHO) and the state agency of environmental protection will coordinate on establishing a depopulation group(s) and disposal group(s).
 - [USDA National Animal Health Emergency System Mass Depopulation and Euthanasia Guidelines](#)
- If operating both central depopulation and central disposal sites in the state, then Disposal Group Supervisor and Depopulation Group Supervisor will communicate daily.