How may I dispose of biological wastes?

Biological waste is defined in the Resource Recovery and Management Act (RRMA) as including, but not limited to, biomedical waste, diseased or dead animals, and other waste capable of transmitting pathogens to humans or animals. Biological wastes are subject to lower standards of disposal than most other solid wastes. 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 disposed of as follows:

- burned, if in compliance with the general burning statutes
- buried at least two feet deep
- disposed of by licensed rendering companies
- disposed of in a Class I landfill

Carcasses may not be disposed of as follows:

- dumped on any public road or right-of-way
- left where they may be consumed by animals

The statute defines domestic animals as including horses, cattle, goats, sheep, swine, dogs, cats, poultry, or other domesticated beasts or birds.

How may I properly dispose of poultry wastes?

Poultry wastes and residues may be disposed of as follows:

- burned
- rendered by an approved renderer
- fed to swine (after adequate heat treatment)
- buried in sanitary disposal pits

Disclaimer: This handbook is distributed with the understanding that the authors are not engaged in rendering legal or other professional advice and that the information contained herein should not be regarded or relied on as a substitute for professional advice. This handbook is not all-inclusive in providing information to achieve compliance with laws and regulations governing the practice of agriculture. For these reasons, using these materials constitutes an agreement to hold harmless the authors, the Center for Agricultural and Natural Resource Law, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, and the University of Florida for any liability claims, damages, or expenses that may be incurred by any person or party as a result of reference to or reliance on the information contained in this handbook.
• composted
• placed in a designated landfill

If waste must be transported to a disposal site, it must be placed in sealed containers to prevent spillage.