

Disposal Guidance for Home Hog Processing

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Due to the COVID-19, many of the normal slaughter facilities for swine are working at a fraction of their normal rates. This has led some facilities to sell their pigs directly to the public for slaughter. Home slaughter of hogs raises a multitude of questions. While the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the USDA regulate the slaughter of animals, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment regulates solid waste disposal.

K.S.A. 65-3409(a)(1)(B) allows an individual to dispose of waste from their own residential or agricultural activities on property they own or lease as long as the disposal does not create a public nuisance or adversely affect the public health or the environment.

Slaughtering a 300-pound market hog will generate 100 to 120 pounds of waste depending on the person's processing skills. The addition of bones creates 30 more pounds of waste. Due to this large volume of waste it is likely that nuisance conditions will develop unless the waste is managed and disposed properly.

Possible options for disposal are discussed below, but it is important that you follow all local ordinances.

1. Put the waste out to be collected by your trash hauler. You should contact your hauler first to confirm they will pick up this waste and ask about any special storage requirements for pick up. At the very least the waste should be placed in tightly sealed, heavy duty plastic bags inside of a rigid trash receptacle with a tightly fitting lid. Do not store plastic bags containing the waste on the ground.
2. Disposal on-site. The following guidelines should be followed for on-site disposal.
 - Bury the waste within 48 hours unless otherwise authorized.
 - Add quick or slaked lime, if necessary, to control odors and discourage scavenging.
 - Cover the animal waste with a minimum of three feet of soil.
 - Select a site for burial that is downgradient from and at least 100' or more from drinking water wells, surface water or property lines.
3. Composting. The area for composting should be fairly flat to prevent stormwater run-off and ponding, and at least 100 feet from drinking water wells, surface water and property lines. The waste should be placed on at least 2 feet of carbonaceous material (like wood chips, ground hay or straw, or yard waste) and then completely encased in at least 2 feet of the same material. The compost site should be checked daily, and more material added as needed to prevent odors and scavenging.

4. Direct hauling to a permitted landfill. You should contact the landfill prior to taking the waste there to see if they will accept it and how they want it delivered. Not all counties have a landfill close and most transfer stations will not accept the waste from slaughter.

Some other resources that may be helpful follow.

1. Is it legal where you are located? Modern Farmer provides some things to think about in this article (<https://modernfarmer.com/2014/03/dear-modern-farmer-legal-slaughter-pig-backyard/>).
2. Do you have the right equipment to humanly slaughter and process the hog? South Dakota State University provides this guide and some related videos to help (<https://extension.sdstate.edu/home-hog-slaughter>).
3. What can you do with the meat? (See answer to #1) If you plan to sell the meat this publication from K-State Research and Extension may provide some answers. <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3138.pdf>

