Disposal during a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) response includes measures to prevent the introduction of or mitigate the spread of the pathogen through the elimination of infected or potentially infected animal carcasses and associated materials. After depopulation methods are used to stop the spread of a deadly disease, an effective and safe disposal method must be implemented to protect public and animal health. An incident-specific disposal plan is prepared by the disposal team leader with considerations for the following items.

**SITE ASSESSMENT**

The site-specific disposal plan will outline the number and types of personnel, vehicles, and other resources and equipment needed to conduct disposal operations. A permit may be required from the local authorities and environmental agencies.

**DISPOSAL METHODS**

Carcass disposal decisions are made by qualified waste disposal experts who are familiar with livestock industry concerns as well as state/local environmental concerns. State and local environmental regulators as well as state animal health officials will need to be consulted and must approve large-scale animal disposal plans. The major disposal methods most likely to be considered during an animal health emergency are:

1. **Rendering**: A commercial cooking and drying process that kills the pathogens in carcasses and contaminated materials and converts by-products into usable commodities.

2. **Solid Waste Landfills**: Carcasses are layered between compacted soil and solid waste materials at permitted landfills.

3. **Composting**: Decomposition through placement of carcasses between layers of carbon-rich organic materials under controlled conditions.

4. **Thermal Disposal**: High-temperature combustion such as incineration is used to destroy animal carcasses and associated animal materials.

5. **On-site Burial**: Burial of carcasses by placing them in a trench or large earthen hole or pit.

6. **On-site Shallow Burial with Carbon**: A hybrid method between deep burial and composting.
Observance of strict biosecurity and cleaning and disinfection measures is essential to the prevention of possible spread of disease between premises. Personnel biosecurity measures as well as vehicular and equipment biosecurity are critical to help contain disease and prevent further spread. The Clean/Dirty Line is an essential component that is implemented by establishing an imagined or physical line separating the clean side (non-infected) from the dirty side (potential sources of infection).

1. **Personnel biosecurity:**
   Upon arrival at the entrance to a premises, Disposal Team Members may need to change to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) clothing and follow standard operating procedures. Upon departure from the premises, strict adherence to biosecurity protocols should be maintained.

2. **On-site biosecurity:**
   Strict biosecurity strategies such as the Clean/Dirty Line must be followed to avoid disease spread.

3. **Vehicle biosecurity:**
   Careful planning and implementation of transportation biosecurity measures are critical to prevent the spread of infection from trucks and other equipment used. Strict biosecurity measures must also be followed at the receiving facility such as a landfill, a renderer, or a temporary storage facility.

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**Other Waste Materials Disposal**

In addition to animal carcasses, significant amounts of associated materials will require disposal. All waste materials slated for disposal and/or transport during an FAD response must be correctly labeled prior to disposal to assure that appropriate disposal and transportation methods are selected. Other common waste material types likely to be encountered during a response include:

- Animal by-products, milk, wool, etc.
- Bedding of all types, manure, and hatchery waste
- Feeds, hay, grains, and silage
- Equipment, supplies, and materials
- Debris, including buildings and structures