

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 848**

FINAL READING

Introduced by Halloran, 33.

Read first time January 06, 2022

Committee: Agriculture

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Animal Health and Disease Control Act;
- 2 to amend sections 54-2940 and 54-2946, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 3 Nebraska; to change powers of the Department of Agriculture and
- 4 duties of owners or custodians of dead animals relating to
- 5 catastrophic livestock mortality or euthanization; to harmonize
- 6 provisions; and to repeal the original sections.
- 7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 54-2940, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3 54-2940 In carrying out its duties to prevent, suppress, control,  
4 and eradicate dangerous diseases the department may:

5 (1) Issue quarantines to any person or public or private premises  
6 within the state where an affected animal, suspected affected animal, or  
7 regulated article is or was located, and upon any animal imported into  
8 Nebraska in violation of the Animal Health and Disease Control Act, the  
9 Exotic Animal Auction or Exchange Venue Act, and any importation rules or  
10 regulations until such quarantine is released by the State Veterinarian.  
11 Whenever additional animals are placed within a quarantined premises or  
12 area, such quarantine may be amended accordingly by the department.  
13 Births and death loss shall be included on inventory documentation  
14 pursuant to the quarantine;

15 (2) Regulate or prohibit animal or regulated article movement into,  
16 within, or through the state through quarantines, controlled movement  
17 orders, importation orders, or embargoes as deemed necessary by the State  
18 Veterinarian;

19 (3) Require an affected animal or suspected affected animal to be  
20 (a) euthanized, detained, slaughtered, or sold for immediate slaughter at  
21 a federally inspected slaughter establishment or (b) inspected, tested,  
22 treated, subjected to an epidemiological investigation, monitored, or  
23 vaccinated. The department may require tested animals to be identified by  
24 an official identification eartag. Costs for confinement, restraint, and  
25 furnishing the necessary assistance and facilities for such activities  
26 shall be the responsibility of the owner or custodian of the animal;

27 (4) Seek an emergency proclamation by the Governor in accordance  
28 with section 81-829.40 when deemed appropriate. All state agencies and  
29 political subdivisions of the state shall cooperate with the  
30 implementation of any emergency procedures and measures developed  
31 pursuant to such proclamation;

1           (5)(a) Access records or animals and enter any premises related to  
2 the purposes of the Animal Health and Disease Control Act or the Exotic  
3 Animal Auction or Exchange Venue Act without being subject to any action  
4 for trespass or reasonable damages if reasonable care is exercised; and

5           (b) Obtain an inspection warrant in the manner prescribed in  
6 sections 29-830 to 29-835 if any person refuses to allow the department  
7 access or entry as authorized under this subdivision;

8           (6) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to enforce and  
9 effectuate the general purpose and provisions of the Animal Health and  
10 Disease Control Act, the Exotic Animal Auction or Exchange Venue Act, and  
11 any other provisions the department deems necessary for carrying out its  
12 duties under such acts including:

13           (a) Standards for program diseases to align with USDA/APHIS/VS  
14 program standards;

15           (b) Provisions for maintaining a livestock disease reporting system;

16           (c) Procedures for establishing and maintaining accredited,  
17 certified, validated, or designated disease-free animals, herds, or  
18 flocks;

19           (d) In consultation with the Department of Environment and Energy  
20 and the Department of Health and Human Services, best management  
21 practices for the disposal of carcasses of dead livestock;

22           (e) In consultation with the Department of Environment and Energy  
23 and the University of Nebraska, operating procedures governing composting  
24 of livestock carcasses;

25           (f) Recommendations of where and how any available federal funds and  
26 state personnel and materials are to be allocated for the purpose of  
27 program disease activities; and

28           (g) Provisions for secure food supply plans to ensure the continuity  
29 of business is maintained during a foreign animal or transboundary  
30 disease outbreak;

31           (7) When funds are available, develop a livestock emergency response

1 system capable of coordinating and executing a rapid response to the  
2 incursion or potential incursion of a dangerous livestock disease episode  
3 which poses a threat to the health of the state's livestock and could  
4 cause a serious economic impact on the state, international trade, or  
5 both;

6 (8) When funds are available, support planning for and assistance  
7 with catastrophic livestock mortality disposal, including the acquisition  
8 of equipment and supplies and securing of services, to augment  
9 preparedness for and response to a disease, natural disaster, or other  
10 emergency event resulting in catastrophic livestock mortality or  
11 euthanization;

12 (9) (8) Allow animals intended for direct slaughter to move to a  
13 controlled feedlot for qualified purposes; and

14 (10) (9) Approve qualified commuter herd agreements and livestock  
15 producer plans and, when appropriate, allow for exceptions to  
16 requirements by written compliance agreements.

17 Sec. 2. Section 54-2946, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
18 amended to read:

19 54-2946 (1) It is the duty of the owner or custodian of any dead  
20 animal to properly dispose of the animal within thirty-six hours after  
21 receiving knowledge of the animal's death unless a different timeframe is  
22 established in a herd or flock management plan or otherwise allowed by  
23 the State Veterinarian. Proper disposal of a dead animal is limited to:

24 (a) Burial on the premises where such animal died or on any adjacent  
25 property under the control of the animal's owner or custodian and  
26 coverage to a depth of at least four feet below the surface of the ground  
27 except as required in subsection (7) of this section;

28 (b) Complete incineration;

29 (c) Composting on the premises where such animal died or on an  
30 adjacent property under the ownership and control of the owner or  
31 custodian;

1 (d) Alkaline hydrolysis tissue digestion by a veterinary clinic or  
2 laboratory;

3 (e) Transportation by a licensed rendering establishment or other  
4 hauler approved by the State Veterinarian;

5 (f) Transportation to a veterinary clinic or laboratory for purposes  
6 of diagnostic testing; or

7 (g) Transportation with written permission of the State  
8 Veterinarian:

9 (i) To a rendering establishment licensed under the Nebraska Meat  
10 and Poultry Inspection Law;

11 (ii) To a compost site approved by the State Veterinarian;

12 (iii) To a facility with a permit to operate as a landfill under the  
13 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act so long as the operator of the  
14 landfill agrees to accept the dead animal;

15 (iv) To any facility which lawfully disposes of dead animals;~~or~~

16 (v) As specified in a herd or flock management plan; or -

17 (vi) In the event of a disease, natural disaster, or other emergency  
18 event resulting in catastrophic livestock mortality or euthanization, to  
19 a location designated by a county or other local emergency management  
20 organization.

21 (2) A dead animal properly disposed of pursuant to this section is  
22 exempt from the requirements for disposal of solid waste under the  
23 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act.

24 (3) Any vehicle used by the owner or custodian to transport a dead  
25 animal shall be constructed in such a manner that the contents are  
26 covered and will not fall, leak, or spill from the vehicle. Violation of  
27 this subsection is a traffic infraction as defined in section 60-672.

28 (4) It is hereby made the duty of the sheriff of each county to  
29 cause the proper disposal of the carcass of any animal or carcass part  
30 remaining unburied or otherwise disposed of after notice from the  
31 department that any such carcass has not been properly buried or disposed

1 of in violation of this section. The sheriff may enter any premises where  
2 any such carcass is located for the purpose of carrying out this section  
3 and may cause each carcass to be properly buried or disposed of on such  
4 premises. The county board of commissioners or supervisors shall allow  
5 such sums for the services as it may deem reasonable, and such sums shall  
6 be paid to the persons rendering the services upon vouchers as other  
7 claims against the county are paid. The owner of such animal shall be  
8 liable to the county for the expense of such burial or disposal, to be  
9 recovered in a civil action, unless the owner pays such expenses within  
10 thirty days after notice and demand therefor.

11 (5) If anthrax is suspected in any animal death, the owner or  
12 custodian of the animal or herd shall be responsible to have samples  
13 submitted to an approved laboratory for confirmation.

14 (6) If an animal has or is suspected to have died of anthrax, it  
15 shall be unlawful to:

16 (a) Transport such animal or animal carcass, except as directed and  
17 approved by the department;

18 (b) Use the flesh or organs of such animal or animal carcass for  
19 food for livestock or human consumption; or

20 (c) Remove the skin or hide of such animal or animal carcass.

21 (7) The disposition of any anthrax-infected animal carcass shall be  
22 carried out under the direction of the department. It shall be the duty  
23 of the owner or custodian of an animal that has died of anthrax to bury  
24 or burn the carcass on the premises where the carcass is found, unless  
25 directed otherwise by the State Veterinarian. If such carcass is buried,  
26 no portion of the carcass shall be interred closer than six feet from the  
27 surface of the ground. The department may direct the owner or custodian  
28 of an infected herd to treat the herd and to clean and disinfect the  
29 premises in accordance with the herd plan.

30 Sec. 3. Original sections 54-2940 and 54-2946, Reissue Revised  
31 Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.