



Ensuring animal welfare during depopulation for disease control

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Depopulation for disease control

- One of the key duties on a farm having highly contagious disease
- Aim is to prevent spread of the disease and to eradicate it
- Needs to be done quickly and efficiently and taking into account animal welfare



Animals shall be spared
any avoidable
pain, distress or suffering during their
killing and related operations

But

- Animals cannot be moved away from the location
- Farms can have thousands of animals
- Conditions might be difficult
- Resources might be scarce or not available
- Often need to avoid bleeding
- Need to act quickly

What can we do?

- Good contingency planning and SOPs
- Exercises
- Learning from others
 - Which methods are available in Nordic-Baltic countries for depopulation
 - Which resources are required with different methods
 - Pros and cons related to the different methods
 - How regulation 1099/2009 is implemented in practice

Animal welfare regulations

- Council regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing (1099/2009)
 - Lays down rules for purpose of depopulation as well
 - Only article 3 (general requirements) applies for fish
 - Does not apply during hunting
 - Includes rules for
 - Arranging killing and handling the animals
 - Stunning methods and killing after stunning
 - Requirements for the level of competence
 - Action plan for depopulation
 - Authority's role during depopulation
 - Possibility of derogations
 - Report on depopulation actions

Preparation of the session

- [Questionnaire for Riga session 05062018.docx](#)
- Nordic and Baltic countries, and Netherlands (birds)

Action plan

- Number and species of animals to be killed and estimating the value of them
- Description of barns and location of animals in them
- Order of killing
- Method of killing and back up methods ->SOP
- Location used for killing
- Extra equipment needed for killing station or leading animals into the area
- Moving of animals into the killing station
- Estimated time
- Required personnel and companies and where to get them
- Sampling after killing
- Spraying carcasses with disinfectant and removing carcasses
- Destroying carcasses
- Human health and safety
- Biosecurity
- Other animals in the location
- Pest control

Methods of killing; pigs

- CO₂ gassing; 80 %
 - Gassing in containers
 - Larger groups killed at one time, however, large farms take several days to depopulate
 - Easy to handle animals and carcasses
 - Whole house gassing
 - Difficulties in sealing the premises
 - Difficulties in removing the carcasses
- Electrical stunning and electrocution
 - Small farms, up to 200-300 pigs?
 - Requires very little equipment and personnel on small farms (easy to set up)
 - Human health risk
- Captive bolt and pithing
- Lethal injection (hobby animals)
- Blunt force < 5 kg, if no other means available

Methods of killing; poultry

- CO₂ (also water fowl)
 - Whole house gassing
 - Large capacity, all production types
 - Not good for old barns or ones with open manure pit
 - Gassing in containers
 - Relatively quick
 - For places where whole house gassing is not possible
- N₂ with foam
 - Tried in Netherlands
 - Not stable enough, yet
- Other methods according to regulation 1099/2009
 - For small farms, hobby farms, hobby birds

Methods of killing; ruminants

- Captive bolt and pithing
- Also
 - Electricity for small ruminants
 - Lethal injection for small numbers
 - Free bullet

Methods of killing; wildlife

- Shooting; deer, wild boar
 - Hunters, trained officials

Personnel and contracts

- Personnel
 - Veterinary officers and other government/official staff
 - Private companies, for ex:
 - Rendering plant
 - Slaughter house
 - Agricultural industry
 - Poultry loading company
- Contracts
 - Agreements
 - Full contract with requirements for the price, time on spot, killing capacity and personnel

Competence requirements and training activities

- Certificate of competence preferred
 - If no certificate, otherwise trained for the job
- Training activities vary among countries
 - E-learning
 - Theoretical training
 - Practical training

Co-operation among countries

