Proposed Dead Animal Disposal Act.

The Government is proposing to change the existing Dead Animal Disposal Act (DADA) with two new regulations.

The **Nutrient Management Act**, 2002 (NMA) will address on-farm disposal of deadstock and will cover more species and offer more disposal options than currently available.

The **Food Safety and Quality Act**, 2001 (FSQA) will address off-farm disposal issues, including transportation (eliminating markers), processing, storage and disposal standards and requirements to minimize the impacts on animal health and the environment.

Under the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) there was a comment period of 46 days. Submissions could be made between October 20, 2008 and December 05, 2008. Staff submitted comments to the EBR on December 5,2008.

Background:

Proposed on farm regulations that will fall under the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 (NMA)

The following proposed regulations set out requirements for the disposal of deadstock at the farm.

The regulation will apply to all farms, regardless of whether or not the farm is under the NMAct

This proposed regulation sets out requirements for the disposal of cattle, goats, sheep, horses and swine deer, elk, alpacas, llamas, bison, yaks, donkeys, ponies, rabbits, poultry and fowl, ratites, and fur bearing animals.

Animals must be disposed of within 48 hours of death, which is the current requirement, but two exceptions will apply:

1. to perform a post mortem or
2. if the animal is put into temporary storage

Disposal options:

a. burial
b. incineration
c. composting
d. disposal vessels
e. collection by a licensed collector

f. anaerobic digestion
g. delivery to a waste disposal site approved under the EPA
h. delivery to a disposal facility as defined under the FSQA
i. delivery to a licensed veterinarian for post mortem

If an operator chooses to bury, incinerate, or compost, the proposed regulation establishes requirements to minimize impacts on the environment.

Minimum separation distances have been established from livestock housing facilities; field drainage tiles; residential and commercial lands; surface water; bedrock and aquifers; wells including municipal wells and floodplains.

Most of the proposed setbacks for burying & composting seem reasonable and practical ie. 6 m setback from tile drains, 100-200 m from neighbours, 50 m flow path [Notable exception - 2 m soil above uppermost identified bedrock or aquifer for burial [Section 10(3)], composting [Section 12(2))] and 'disposal vessels' [(Section (13(5))]

Transportation

A farm operator may transport only his/her own deadstock:

- to a common bin or collection point for collection by a licensed deadstock collector
- to a veterinarian for the purposes of a post mortem
- from one farm to another for disposal if he/she owns the property
- to a site approved under the EPA or licensed under the FSQA

- **During transport**, the deadstock must be kept out of public view
- In a container designed or equipped to prevent leakage.
- Each surface that comes into contact with the deadstock must be impervious & capable of being cleaned and sanitized.
- Transportation under these circumstances does not require approval under the FSQA.

Record Keeping

The operator must maintain records for three years that document compliance with the regulation.

Emergency Conditions

Emergency conditions exists where an operator cannot, comply with the NMA requirements with respect to storage, disposal or transportation (barn fires)
The regulation allows the operator to apply for approval that would not otherwise meet the requirements of the regulation.