

General Guidelines

- Never throw medical sharps in the burial pit for livestock or other materials
- Never throw loose medical sharps in the trash
- Medical sharps should never be mixed with recyclable materials! (including source-separated material and single stream material)



For more information, contact
the Bureau of Waste Management
785-296-1600 or kdhe.bwmweb@ks.gov



Bureau of Waste Management
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320
Topeka, KS 66612-1366
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SHARPS - a medical term for devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin.

DON'T GET STUCK WITH LIVESTOCK SHARPS

Guidelines for the Safe Disposal of Livestock Sharps



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DON'T GET STUCK WITH SHARPS !

Medical sharps that are generated at livestock facilities

Livestock facilities generate medical sharps in several different ways. The most common generation point on any livestock facility is where the livestock are given injections of vaccines, hormones, or medicines. Generally large metal needles are used for these injections. The residues left in them make these needles even more dangerous if not disposed of properly.

Other sharps that are generated would include disposable scalpels used for minor and major surgery and broken medicine bottles. Each of these pose a high risk of injury if not disposed of properly.

Medical sharps disposal options for CAFOs

Under Kansas law, if your facility uses medical sharps such as needles, syringes, and lancets you must use a medical waste disposal provider or dispose of such items in accordance with the Special Waste Disposal regulations found in K.A.R. 28-29-109.

The improper storage and disposal of medical sharps may present serious safety and public health risks, especially to your employees and solid waste and recycling workers. Any person who is accidentally stuck should undergo medical testing due to concerns about exposure to harmful or deadly diseases such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV.

Medical sharps should never be disposed by dumping on the ground or in a pit with livestock or other wastes to be buried. Each of these pose risks to anyone that might come into contact with the contaminated sharps.



Properly dispose of medical sharps!

Containers that may be used for Medical Sharps

CAFO facilities should only use purchased sharps containers specifically designed for medical sharps. These will be red rigid plastic containers that have the words "Sharps" and "Biohazard" on them. The purchased containers are specifically designed for ease of use and safe handling. Other containers should not be used because they do not clearly denote what is in them and the hazards associated with the contents.



Farmers and Ranchers

Farmers and ranchers with just a few cattle may have additional disposal options. Local health departments or HHWs may accept sharps but should be contacted before attempting to deliver the sharps.

Since individuals have the option of placing the sharps containers in their regular trash some additional precautions need to be followed. Any container used should be made of heavy rigid plastic (such as a detergent bottle) and be marked with the words "Medical Sharps". You should never use light plastic (pop bottles) or glass. The bottle should be securely taped with shipping or duct tape before being placed in the trash. Never throw bottles containing medical sharps in the recycling bin.