

# Euthanasia

## Ohio Livestock Care Standards



Euthanasia of livestock must be performed when the likelihood of recovery is poor and the condition cannot be effectively relieved by best species-management practices or medically appropriate procedures.

Except in slaughter facilities already governed by federal or state law, the **only** acceptable methods of euthanasia for livestock are those listed below. If, in the course of employing one of these methods, **humane death** does not occur, the same method or another acceptable method **must** be performed immediately. **Death is confirmed by the absence of a heartbeat or breathing for five minutes, and the animal's lack of a blink reflex when the eye is touched.**

As a standalone method, *Exsanguination* (to bleed an animal to death) can only be used for ritual slaughter. However, it can be used to ensure the death of an unconscious animal or following stunning.

These methods are to be considered as sole methods for euthanasia; however, the rules do not preclude a licensed veterinarian from performing acceptable standards of veterinary practices.

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The logo for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, featuring the word "Ohio" in a stylized font with a circle around the "o", followed by a vertical line and the words "Department of Agriculture".

### Acceptable methods (by species)

#### Bovines, Camelids, Equines

(Veal, Dairy, Beef, Alpacas, Llamas, Horses, Ponies, Mules, Donkeys)  
penetrating captive bolt gun, gunshot, injectable barbituates

#### Ovines, Caprines

(Sheep, Goats)

gunshot, inhaled carbon dioxide agent, injectable barbiturates  
*weight >12 lbs:* penetrating captive bolt  
*weight <12 lbs:* non-penetrating captive bolt gun, blunt force

#### Poultry

(Layers, Broilers, Turkeys)

inhaled carbon dioxide agent, cervical dislocation, a gunshot, blunt force, decapitation, non-penetrating captive bolt gun, maceration, injectable barbiturates

#### Swine

*weight >70 lbs:* penetrating captive bolt gun, gunshot, injectable barbiturates  
*weight 12-70 lbs:* penetrating captive bolt gun, gunshot, inhaled carbon dioxide agent, injectable barbiturates  
*weight ≤12 lbs:* a non-penetrating captive bolt, blunt force, inhaled carbon dioxide agent, injectable barbiturates  
*weight ≥10 lbs:* electrocution

To download a more comprehensive overview of Ohio's livestock care standards, please visit [www.ohiolivestockcarestandards.gov](http://www.ohiolivestockcarestandards.gov)