

prevent garbage from being fed to swine, cattle, and poultry.

Some argue that feeding garbage to animals is an efficient way to recycle valuable nutrients. However, diseases dangerous to both people and livestock get recycled as well. Any potential economic gain from the practice of feeding garbage to livestock is just not worth the risk.

Garbage feeding is illegal even if the garbage is cooked. This is because the cooking process is not always effective in destroying diseases carried in garbage.

The Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in Great Britain was the result of feeding garbage to swine. It is believed that plate waste that was derived from meat imported from countries with FMD was fed to swine at the farm where the outbreak began. Because FMD is highly contagious, the disease spread very quickly and caused Great Britain to suffer severe economic losses in the agriculture and tourism industries.

Today, garbage feeding is banned in numerous states, including New York. A few of the serious diseases, in addition to FMD, that can be spread by garbage feeding are:

Classical Swine Fever
(Hog Cholera)
Brucellosis
Pseudorabies
Vesicular Xanthema
Erysipelas
Trichinosis
Intestinal parasites
(roundworms and tapeworms)
Salmonella

If you have any questions concerning the feeding of garbage or any matter relating to livestock health please contact:



New York State
Agriculture and Markets

New York State
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Division of Animal Industry
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New York State
Agriculture and Markets

GARBAGE FEEDING

Why it is prohibited.

Feeding garbage to swine, cattle and poultry has been a common practice for centuries. However, this practice has been found to be one of the root causes of the spread of diseases, not only within the animal and bird populations but also from animals to humans.

NYS AGRICULTURE & MARKETS LAW ARTICLE 5 SEC. 72A

Feeding of garbage, offal or carcasses to cattle, swine or poultry is prohibited.

1. Garbage fed to cattle, swine or poultry contributes to the spread of vesicular exanthema, cholera, erysipelas, foot and mouth disease, trichinosis and other infectious animal diseases. Meat from animals so afflicted, when consumed by human beings, is a primary source of trichinosis and other human sickness. It is therefore declared to be the public policy of this state to prohibit the feeding of garbage, offal or carcasses to cattle, swine or poultry to assist in the eradication of animal diseases and for the protection of the public health and public welfare.

2. Definitions. When used in this section:

- a. "Garbage" means putrescible animal and poultry wastes from the handling, processing, preparation, cooking and consumption of foods.
- b. "Offal" means the waste parts of butchered animals or poultry.
- c. "Carcasses" means the dead bodies of animals or poultry.
- d. "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, public or private corporation, public or private

institution, public authority, municipal corporation and the state.

e. Notwithstanding anything in the preceding paragraphs of this subdivision to the contrary, animal feeds which have been heat rendered by a rendering plant at a temperature sufficient to make the product commercially sterile shall not be considered garbage, offal or carcasses within the meaning of this section.

3. a. It shall be unlawful for any person to feed garbage, offal or carcasses whether cooked or uncooked to cattle, swine or poultry.
- b. This section shall not apply to any individual who feeds garbage from his own household only, to cattle swine or poultry on his own premises.
- c. Violation of this section shall constitute a class A misdemeanor.

This important law has been one of the major reasons that New York is currently free of several serious livestock and human diseases. The incidence of other diseases has also been greatly reduced because of this law.

The Law:

NYS Law prohibits the feeding of garbage, offal or animal carcasses to swine, cattle or poultry. Garbage is any poultry or animal waste from the processing, preparation, or consumption of food. Offal is waste from the butchering of animals. Plate waste is a very common source of garbage that may include meat and poultry scraps that must not be fed to animals.

Certain discarded foods are NOT considered garbage. They include: dairy and cheese waste, including outdated foodstuffs removed from supermarkets (except meat products), outdated eggs, stale baked goods, and discarded vegetables and fruit. These foods may be collected and fed to swine.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets inspects swine facilities in the State to ensure compliance with the Law. In addition, a surveillance program of garbage generators such as restaurants, hospitals, schools, hotels and supermarkets is being instituted to



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