

FEATURE – USDA ASSISTS WITH ANIMAL DISPOSAL TO HELP ENVIRONMENT

INTRO: Unwanted animal carcasses resulting from car accidents or hunting can be a problem for communities. USDA is working in Florida on an environmentally friendly and productive way to deal with this issue. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:25)

ABANDONED DEER CARCASSES ARE AN EYESORE AND POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARD. THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE IS HELPING FLORIDA OFFICIALS DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF CARCASSES DUMPED HAPHAZARDLY.

Danny Dean, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office: But when you dump it to the side of the road there's certain sanitary nuisances and things that are associated with the decomposition of any animal that's going to pose a significant health risk to anyone who travels that road or may live within close proximity of that area.

Michael Lane, Lane's Deer Processing: In the past we'd just dig a hole and lay them out or stick them out in the property and let the coyotes get them.

SO INSTEAD OF LETTING NATURE TAKES ITS COURSE. N-R-C-S PARTNERED WITH THE THREE RIVERS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND OKALOOSA COUNTY TO GIVE NATURE SOME HELP.

Lane: And now since NRCS and USDA have come up with the composting, which is protecting the environment and stuff we decided to go this way.

Darryl Williams, USDA NRCS: The goal behind it is to put the carcasses in a composter, put materials in to help it break down over time to be disposed of back on to the environment.

John Harper, USDA NRCS: You come out with a product that is compostable, kind of like leaves, with some deer carcass left and this actually can be used in the environment, to put on food plots and also in some cases options to keep deer away from certain areas

FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.