The US Environmental Protection Agency’s Food Recovery Hierarchy lists “feeding animals” as the third most preferred method of diverting food waste from the landfill. The Midwest produces and processes millions of hogs and ruminants yearly. It seems feeding livestock edible food waste would be a great solution to the massive quantities of food waste that ends up in the landfill. However, pathogens and diseases are a big source of worry for Midwest states where a collapse of cattle, pork and meat commodity markets would be catastrophic. Within this guide, you will navigate both federal and specific Midwest state regulations regarding, 1) cattle materials in ALL animal feed, 2) allowable materials in ruminant feed, and 3) specific state regulations regarding feeding swine food waste.
Federal Regulation

CATTLE MATERIALS IN ALL ANIMAL FEED
The federal regulation (Title 21 CFR 589.2001) regarding feeding animals does not allow any cattle meat or cattle meat by-products to come into contact with animal feed. The following list includes cattle materials not allowed in ANY animal feed, including ruminants and swine.

Cattle Materials Prohibited in ALL Animal Feed (CMPAF)

✓ The entire carcass of BSE-positive cattle.
✓ The brains and spinal cords of cattle 30 months of age and older.*
✓ The entire carcass of cattle that are 30 months of age or older from which brains and spinal cords were not effectively removed or excluded from animal feed.*
✓ Mechanically separated beef derived from materials above marked with *
✓ Tallow that exceeds 0.15% insoluble impurities derived from materials above marked with *

*These materials must be clearly marked CMPAF (Cattle Material Prohibited in Animal Feed)

Ruminant Feed

What is a ruminant you ask? Ruminants are cattle, sheep, goats, bison, and elk that have four chambers for digestion, are hoofed, even-toed and usually horned animals raised on farms as livestock. When feeding ruminants, there are prohibited and allowable materials (Title 21 CFR 589.2000) to prevent the spread of pathogens and diseases, which are both listed on following page ➪
FEDERAL REGULATION - FEEDING GARBAGE (FOOD WASTE) TO SWINE

The Federal Swine Health Protection Act (Title 9 CFR 166.7) identifies garbage as one of the primary sources for transmission in infectious or communicable diseases of swine, such as foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, hog cholera and swine vesicular diseases. Food waste is considered “garbage feeding” under this regulation.

Garbage (food waste) may be fed to swine only if treated properly to kill diseases at a facility holding a valid permit or license to treat garbage. Garbage must be heated to boiling (at least 212° Fahrenheit) for a minimum of 30 minutes.

Although feeding swine food waste is allowable under federal regulations, many states have legislation that specifically prohibits feeding swine food waste. In these cases, state legislation that is more stringent supersedes federal regulations regarding feeding swine food waste.

Allowable Materials in Ruminant Feed

- Amino acids
- Blood and blood products
- Dicalcium phosphate
- Gelatin
- Milk products
- Oil
- Plate waste with meat products that have been cooked for human consumption and have been further heated for animal feed
- Poultry protein
- Pure horse protein
- Pure pork protein
- Restaurant cooking oils
- Vegetable protein
- Tallow with less than 0.15% insoluble impurities

Prohibited Materials in Ruminant Feed

- Animal by-product meal
- Animal digest
- Animal liver
- Bone meal cooked or steamed
- Bone marrow cooked
- Chondroitin Sulfate
- Dehydrated food waste
- Dehydrated garbage
- Distressed pet food
- Dried meal solubles
- Food processing waste
- Fleshings hydrolysate
- Glandular meal/extracted granular meal
- Hydrolyzed hair
- Hydrolyzed leather meal
- Leather hydrolysate
- Meat and bone meal
- Meat and bone meal tankage
- Meat by-products
- Meal, meal meal, or meat protein isolate
- Mechanically separated bone marrow
- Restaurant food waste
- Salvage pet food
- Stock or broth
- Unborn calf carcasses
- Tallow with more than 0.15% insoluble impurities
Due to the threat of spreading pathogens and diseases, many states have implemented bans on feeding swine food waste. The following map displays states that permit and prohibit garbage feeding to swine, as of November 2019.

**FEEDING SWINE "GARBAGE"**

Specific state regulations that address feeding swine food waste are listed below. Interesting to note that Minnesota is the only state in the Upper Midwest that allows feeding swine food waste.

**Illinois**

Even if heat treated to United States Code requirements, feeding garbage to swine in Illinois is **illegal**. The Illinois Administrative Code prohibits issuing a license to permit processing of any garbage for swine. There is an exemption for individuals who feed their own swine garbage from their households.

**Iowa**

Even if heat treated to United States Code requirements, feeding garbage to swine in Iowa is **illegal**. The Iowa Administrative Code prohibits issuing a license to permit processing of any garbage for swine. There is an exemption for individuals who feed their own swine garbage from their households.
Minnesota

Feeding garbage to Swine in Minnesota is legal if proper permitting is obtained. A Class A permit must be obtained from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, and is valid for 1 year.

“The permit is an agreement between the producer and the Board that garbage fed to livestock will be thoroughly heated to at least 212 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes. Additionally, trucks that haul garbage over public roads must be leak-proof, and rodents and pests must be kept away from uncooked garbage on the farm.” (bah.state.mn.us/swine)

Food waste never in contact with meat is referred to as exempt material, and can be fed to swine through obtaining a Class B permit.

To obtain a Class A or B permit in the state of Minnesota, contact animalhealth@state.mn.us

Nebraska

Even if heat treated to United States Code requirements, feeding garbage to swine in Nebraska is illegal. The Nebraska Administrative Code prohibits issuing a license to permit processing of any garbage for swine. There is an exemption for individuals who feed their own swine garbage from their households.

Wisconsin

Even if heat treated to United States Code requirements, feeding garbage to swine in Wisconsin is illegal. The Wisconsin Administrative Code prohibits issuing a license to permit processing of any garbage for swine. There is an exemption for individuals who feed their own swine garbage from their households.