Firearm and Bullet/Shotshell Selection for Euthanasia of Livestock

**Handguns and rifles**: A .22 caliber rifle is sufficient for young animals, but results are not consistent in adult animals. A .22 magnum or larger caliber firearm is preferred.

**Shotguns**: A 12, 16 or 20 gauge are preferred loaded with slugs are best, but birdshot No. 2, 4, or 6 can be used.

**Confirmation of Death**
Regardless of the method of euthanasia used, death must be confirmed before disposal of the animal. The following should be used to evaluate consciousness or to confirm death:
1. Lack of a heartbeat
2. Lack of respiration
3. Lack of a corneal reflex
4. Presence of rigor mortis

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