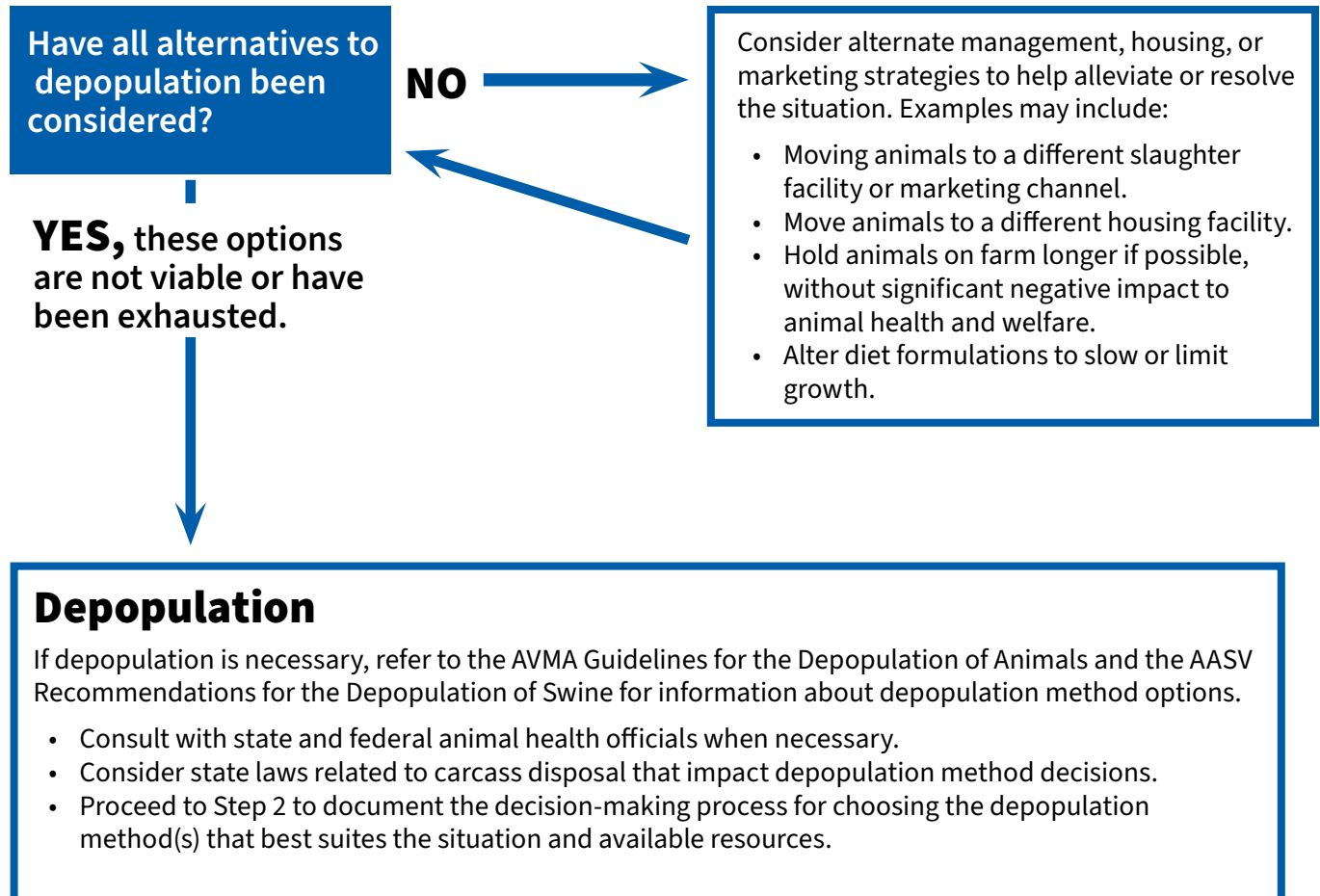


## STEP 1:



## STEP 2:

Every situation where depopulation is considered will be unique due to the limitations and constraints imposed by the type of emergency, resource availability, geography, site variation, local regulations, etc. When choosing a depopulation method, the factors listed in the table must be considered to assess the feasibility of each method. Producers should work with their herd veterinarian to discuss these factors and complete the table to document whether each factor positively (+) or negatively (-) contributes to the feasibility of a method if used. Refer to the Choosing a Depopulation Method section of the AASV Recommendations for the Depopulation of Swine for details to consider for each factor.

# Depopulation Decision Tool

Factor	Preferred methods										Method permitted under constrained circumstances			
	Movement to slaughter	CO <sub>2</sub>	CO	Gunshot	NPCB	PCB	Electrocution	High expansion foam+gas*	MBFT	Anesthetic overdose	VSD+	Sodium nitrite	Water-based foam*	Compounded or nonpharmaceutical-grade injectable anesthetics and euthanasia agents
Phase of production	Finisher & older	All	All	Nursery & older	< 70 lbs	> 12 lbs	> 3 days old	All	< 12 lbs	All	Nursery & grow-finish	Grow-finish & older	All	All
Animal welfare														
Aesthetics														
Worker safety														
Biosecurity														
Personnel available														
Resources readily available														
Animal environment														
Rapid application (> 1000 pigs/hr)														
Carcass restrictions														
Cost														
Preference to use														

\* This method is not included for swine in the AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals, 2019.

CO<sub>2</sub> = carbon dioxide; CO = carbon monoxide; NPCB = nonpenetrating captive bolt; PCB = penetrating captive bolt; MBFT = manual blunt force trauma; VSD+ = ventilation shutdown plus.

This table was adapted from Baysinger et al. A case study of ventilation shutdown with the addition of high temperature and humidity for depopulation of pigs. JAVMA. 2022;259(4):415-424. <https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.259.4.415>

## STEP 3:

Based on the feasibility assessment, record the method or methods of choice to be used for depopulation. Also record the secondary or backup method to be applied if the primary method is unsuccessful.

Signatures of those participating in the decision-making process can also be recorded here. Signatures of the site owner, veterinarian, and other internal decision makers are suggested. Signatures of state or federal animal health officials may also be included if necessary.

Method(s) of Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary or backup method to be applied if the primary method is unsuccessful:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Approval Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Title/Company

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Title/Company

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Name

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Title/Company