



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DNR checking manure spill and fish kill near Rock Rapids

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ROCK RAPIDS—DNR staff are onsite checking the impacts of a large manure spill that reached Mud Creek northwest of Rock Rapids in Lyon County.

Bernie Baker of Rock Bottom Dairy reported spilling several hundred thousand gallons of manure today after an irrigation unit became stuck. The liquid manure flowed through fields, including some with cover crops or pasture, to reach a tributary of Mud Creek and then flowed into Mud Creek.

Slow flow rates are causing the manure-laden water to move slowly downstream. DNR recommends livestock producers who depend upon Mud Creek as a water source to check stream conditions for the next few days.

DNR staff found many dead fish, including bullheads, minnows and chubs, when they arrived about 3:20 p.m.

Staff will work with the producer to get the spill stopped. DNR will monitor the cleanup and fisheries staff will assess the extent of the fish kill on Thursday.

DNR will consider appropriate enforcement actions.

DNR investigating fish kill and manure spill in Kossuth County

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WEST BEND—DNR responded this afternoon to a manure spill in Lotts Creek, about two miles northeast of West Bend.

Precision Pumping, a commercial manure application company, was land applying manure through an umbilical rig when a hose came off the pump. The hose flopped into the creek and an estimated 10,000 gallons of manure spilled into the creek before the applicator could shut down the pump.

DNR found a large number of dead and dying fish in the creek. Staff expect the fish kill to be ongoing as the slug of manure moves downstream. High banks, a wide channel and swift flow make recovering the manure impractical.

Lotts Creek flows into the East Fork of the Des Moines River about 10 miles downstream of the spill. While not insignificant, the spill is not expected to impact downstream water supplies

DNR fisheries staff will be onsite Thursday to count dead fish. DNR environmental specialists collected water samples for testing and will return Thursday to monitor the situation.

DNR will consider appropriate enforcement action.