



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Animal Feeding Operation Updates



Saturated soils, accidents and undetected tile intakes provide pathways for manure to reach streams. Low stream levels make aquatic critters especially vulnerable to pollutants this year. Please be careful out there.

- [Certify before you Land Apply](#)
- [Top 3 Tips for Successful Fall Application](#)
- [Delay application to Save Nutrients and \\$\\$\\$](#)

Certify before you Land Apply

Now's the time. Please check to see if your applicator certification is up-to-date. If you haven't taken your annual training for manure applicator certification, get it done before you start land applying.

There are three options to become certified:

- DNR offers [online training](#) and fee-paying. If you haven't used the system before, follow the prompts to create an IowaID.
- Catch a training session at an Iowa State University [Extension and Outreach](#) office. Please contact your local Extension office to schedule a session.
- Or, make an appointment at a [DNR field office](#) to take a test.

Find more information about state [requirements for manure application](#), including fact sheets for confinement site and commercial applicators on DNR's webpages.

Top 3 Tips for Successful Fall Application

The long-term dry spell that started more than two years ago makes fish and other aquatic critters like crayfish especially vulnerable to spills and small amounts of pollutants.

With stream levels low, these three tips can help prevent spills and fish kills. They'll also help keep applicators safe," says Trent Lambert, supervisor in the Mason City field office.

1. **Be diligent.** Pay attention during pumping and land application, watching the equipment, weather and land. Look out for saturated soils and runoff. Don't over apply.
2. **SLOW DOWN!** Getting in a hurry has caused many past spills and accidents. Don't try to speed things up and then accidentally miss the corner and land in the ditch.
3. **Avoid waters.** Keep umbilical hoses away from bridges, creeks and tile intakes. Avoid surface application by injecting or incorporating. Stay away from sensitive areas and steep slopes. Follow required [separation distances](#) for your operation.

If the worst happens, call in a [spill report](#) as soon as you can to 515-725-8694. DNR staff are experienced in handling spills. They can likely help you keep a bad situation from becoming worse.

For more tips, see "[Avoid Spills and Fish Kills](#)—9 Tips for Successful Land Application."

Delay application to Save Nutrients and \$\$\$

A dry fall and early harvest takes some of the pressure off emptying manure storage structures before winter. It's tempting to go, go, go.

But, wait. It pays to postpone land application until soil temperatures drop below 50 degrees. Cooler soils maximize nitrogen availability and minimize its loss--whether applying anhydrous ammonia or ammonia-laden manure. That saves money.

If you are interested in the science behind 50 degrees and falling, check out pp. 3 and 4 of the October 2019 Iowa Manure Management Action Group's [\(IMMAG\) newsletter](#). Find [real-time soil temperatures](#) on Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's data map. At a 4-inch depth, soil temperatures are running in the low to mid 60s in northern Iowa and high 60s to low 70s in the south this week.