



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Animal Feeding Operation Updates

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Two important deadlines for confinement sites to remember

Dec. 21 to April 1: Limitation on land applying liquid manure from confinement sites on snow-covered ground.

Feb. 1 to April 1: Limitation on land applying liquid manure from confinement sites on frozen ground.



Early cold and snow pose challenges for winter and late fall manure application.

Meeting the challenge of cold weather manure application

Freezing temperatures following a wet fall and delayed harvest make this year's manure application challenging. For many in northwest and north central Iowa, surface application has been the only viable option during the last few weeks.

Add to that, on Dec. 21 the limitation on applying liquid manure from confinements on snow-covered ground kicks in. Confinement sites are totally roofed facilities with more than 500 animal units, e.g., 1,250 finishers, 500 cattle, etc.

Ken Hessenius, supervisor of the Spencer DNR field office, recaps requirements to keep producers on the right side of Iowa's manure application rules. All producers must follow

some setbacks for surface application.

1. Snow-covered and frozen ground restrictions apply to application of liquid manure from confinements unless the liquid manure is injected or incorporated on the application date. They do not apply to small animal feeding operations (confinements with 500 or less animal units).

2. If you must switch from injection or incorporation to surface application:

- Call the local [DNR field office](#) to notify them you need to do emergency application.
- Update the current manure management plan and apply only on fields identified in the MMP.
- Cover or block any tile intakes downgradient of the application area. The temporary intake blocks must be in place prior to land application and for at least two weeks following it.
- Follow [separation distance requirements](#) for surface application. When surface applying **liquid manure**, a 750-foot setback is required from residences, other buildings and public use areas. For **liquid and dry manure**, a 200-foot [setback](#) is required when surface applying near most environmentally sensitive areas such as wells, sinkholes and water sources. Finally, high quality water resources need additional protection and have an 800-foot setback for surface application.

3. Check your construction permit to see if your facility claimed points on the Master Matrix for injecting or incorporating manure. If covered by item 26e on the Master Matrix (footnote c), your operation must have a written waiver from a DNR [field office](#) before surface applying.

4. Check to see if you have a similar nutrient management plan under a federal NPDES permit or NRCS plan, and make sure it allows for surface application.

“Many producers are in a bind because of the weather this year,” Hassenius said. “One option is to surface apply just enough to get by until the weather breaks in the spring and manure storage can be emptied.”

To prevent surface application runoff during freeze/thaw cycles, Hassenius recommends picking the most appropriate fields:

- Flat or gently sloping
- Far from a stream or other water source
- Less vulnerable areas away from environmentally sensitive areas like wells, sinkholes or ag drainage wells.

And, remember to plug those tile intakes.

Find out more from a previous [DNR news release](#) or check out the latest Iowa Manure Management Action Group’s [\(IMMAG\) update](#) for 10 things to consider when winter manure application is necessary.

Dates set for MAC training

Commercial manure applicators can fulfill annual training and certification requirements in 41 counties and at one Minnesota [location](#) on Jan. 3. Most locations offer training from 9 a.m. to noon. Please pre-register with the Iowa State University county [Extension and Outreach office](#) by Dec. 26.

Confinement Site Applicator training begins Jan. 10 and continues through Feb. 28. [Training sessions](#) are offered throughout the state.

Dry and solid manure handlers can pick from six training sessions in February, which meet the requirements for both commercial and confinement manure applicators.

Those unable to attend a scheduled session can:

- schedule a training session at [local extension offices](#)
- make an appointment to take a test at DNR [field offices](#)
- or take [training online](#).

South Central field office moving to Des Moines

After five years in Windsor Heights, DNR's Field Office 5, serving 18 counties in south central Iowa, will move to Des Moines.

Find field office staff on the fourth floor of the Wallace Building at 502 E. Ninth St. Visitors can check in at the reception desk. Park in the free parking ramp on Grand and Pennsylvania avenues just west of the Wallace Building.

Staff phone numbers and emails will remain the same, including their main number, 515-725-0268, answered during normal business hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, the 24-hour environmental emergency reporting number remains 515-725-8694.

The field office is one of six regional locations in DNR's Field Services and Compliance Bureau. [Field offices](#) are local contacts for technical help in protecting Iowa's air, land and water resources. "Coaching for compliance," is the field staff approach to ensure industries, municipalities and citizens comply with Iowa's environmental programs.