



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Animal Feeding Operation Updates

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 19, 2019

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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.



Are you ready for winter? Cold weather this week reminds us that winter manure application can be risky to our waters, certification training for manure application is coming soon, it's time for counties to sign up for the Master Matrix and cold concrete pours can be challenging.

Land application restricted starting Dec. 21

Restrictions on applying manure to snow-covered ground start Dec. 21. Runoff – into our waters – is more likely to occur during winter manure application. State law limits liquid manure application for confinement operations (roofed facilities with more than 500 animal units). They cannot apply liquid manure to fields covered with 1 inch of snow or 0.5 inches of ice, except in an emergency. Land application is OK if producers can properly inject or incorporate the manure. Starting Feb. 1, applying liquid manure on

frozen ground is also restricted until April 1. Call the local [DNR field office](#) prior to any emergency application.

While not required of open feedlots and dry manure producers, all producers can help protect water quality by using common sense and choosing application areas far from a stream, and on flat land with little snow cover. All surface land application must [follow setbacks](#) from buildings and environmentally sensitive areas. Find more tips on winter manure application and the science behind it in [Volume 3, Winter Application](#) in the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's Manure Management series. Or check out the latest Iowa Manure Management Action Group's [\(IMMAG\) update](#) for 10 things to consider when winter manure application is necessary.

Save the date(s) for MAC training

Commercial manure applicators can fulfill annual training and certification requirements at any of 75 county [locations](#) on Jan. 8. 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. 27.

Confinement Site Applicator training begins Jan. 14 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](#).

Sign Up by Jan. 31 to use the Master Matrix

Counties interested in using the Master Matrix to evaluate construction permit applications for confinement (totally roofed) animal feeding operations must pass and submit a construction evaluation resolution each year. Submit the resolution to DNR between Jan. 1 and 31 for the year starting in February 2020.

Find more information from [DNR](#) or [the Iowa State Association of Counties](#).

Cold Weather Concrete Pours – A word of advice from an expert

Can your concrete stand up to the weather? Paul Petitti has been doing concrete inspections since the early '80s. In the last 27 years as a private engineer and, since 2007, DNR's senior AFO engineer, Petitti has seen almost everything. Follow his tips for cold weather concreting to be successful.

1. **Plan ahead**, looking at long term forecasts and suspending concrete pouring for the season once cold weather hits.

2. **When construction can't be halted**, follow these practices once temperature drops below freezing:

- Use insulating blankets to keep ground from freezing before you pour a floor slab and to cover the floor slab after pouring. Leave blankets on for five days.
- Use insulating blankets to keep freshly poured walls from freezing. Leave blankets and forms on for three days.
- If cold weather arrives after properly pouring slabs and walls and the pit's been backfilled, put a few feet of water into the deep pit to prevent frost heave.

3. **Be aware:**

- Hot water in the concrete mix can help, but it is not a substitute for blankets.
- An accelerator admixture in the concrete (calcium chloride) may also help, but, again, it is not a substitute for blankets.
- Plastic drain tile becomes very brittle in cold weather, so it is subject to breaking during construction activities such as backfilling.

DNR rules refer to the American Concrete Institute's Standard 306 "Recommended practices for Cold Weather Concreting." Refer to the [306 Standard](#) for a thorough understanding of cold weather concreting.