



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Animal Feeding Operation Updates

- [Winter land application limits kick in today](#)
- [Counties--prepare for signup to evaluate animal confinement sites](#)
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*Statewide restrictions on applying liquid manure from confinements to snow-covered ground begin Dec. 21.*

## Winter land application limits kick in today

Dry conditions and warm weather provided an early harvest and manure application season. But here are a few reminders, if winter application is still necessary.

### **Confinements with liquid manure--restrictions start Dec. 21**

Runoff into our streams 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. Restrictions on applying manure to snow-covered ground began Dec. 21 and continue until April 1. Liquid manure cannot be applied to fields covered with 1 inch of snow or 0.5 inches of ice, except in an emergency.

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. Be sure to update your manure management plan records.

Other limits may apply if you took credit for injection or incorporation as part of a construction permit application using the Master Matrix.

Winter land application of liquid manure from confinements is allowed when producers can inject or incorporate manure on the same date, and when the ground is not frozen or snow-covered.

### **Rules for all producers**

While limits on winter land application do not apply to open feedlots, dry manure and small confinement producers, all producers must prevent water quality violations. Often

they can help protect water quality by using common sense, and choosing application areas far from a stream on flat land with little snow cover.

All surface land application must [follow setbacks](#) from buildings and environmentally sensitive areas. Look for more information on [winter application rules](#) on DNR's animal feeding operations webpages. When winter application is necessary, find 10 more tips for safe application in the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's [November 2019 newsletter](#).

## Counties--prepare for signup to evaluate animal confinement sites

DNR reminded the Iowa State Association of Counties in early December that counties interested in evaluating construction permits for proposed animal feeding facilities must adopt a construction evaluation resolution.

"Although county boards must submit the resolution to DNR between Jan. 1 and 31 of 2022, a reminder allows extra time for boards to consider their decision," said Kelli Book, DNR attorney.

On average, 88 counties pass a resolution each year, allowing them to review construction permit applications required for larger, totally roofed animal feeding operations (confinements).

Producers in counties that file the resolutions must meet additional standards in their construction permits than sites in other counties. They must earn points on a master matrix by choosing a site and using practices that reduce effects on the environment and the community.

The Master Matrix development, submittal and approval process allows applicants and county supervisors to discuss options for site selection, facility type and management. The county submits a recommendation to the DNR on the permit application after reviewing the master matrix items the applicant selected.

Counties that participate in the master matrix process may accompany DNR on site visits to proposed locations. The county board of supervisors may also appeal the DNR's preliminary approval of a permit to the Environmental Protection Commission.

County boards of supervisors may approve the resolutions at any time, but must submit resolutions between Jan. 1 and 31, 2022. Send resolutions to Kelli Book at DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034 or email [Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov). Sign-ups in January apply to permit applications DNR receives from February 2022 through January 2023.

For historical information on counties that adopted resolutions, check for Master Matrix information on the DNR's animal feeding operations [construction permit](#) webpage.

More information is available from the Iowa State Association of Counties at [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org).

## Plan now for upcoming MAC training

Manure applicator training begins in January for commercial and confinement site applicators.

Commercial manure applicators can fulfill annual training and certification requirements at most county [Extension and Outreach offices](#), on Jan. 6. Most locations offer training from 9 a.m. to noon. Please pre-register at your county office by Dec. 30.

The two-hour training for confinement Site Applicator training begins in January and continues through late February. Most [county Extension offices](#) offer training, but you must preregister.

Dry and solid manure handlers can pick from six training sessions in February, which meet the requirements for both commercial and confinement manure applicators. Sessions begin at 1 p.m. and preregistration is required.

Those unable to attend a scheduled session can:

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

Find out more about [manure applicator certification](#) on DNR's animal feeding operations webpages.