

Animal Feeding Operation Updates

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

- [Pre-register for MAC training by Dec. 27 for commercial applications](#)
- [County requirements for signup to evaluate animal confinement sites](#)
- [Winter land application limits begin soon](#)

Pre-register for MAC training by Dec. 27 for commercial applications

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Prier, DNR, at 319-653-1857 or Jeff.Prier@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES -- Beginning Jan. 9, 2025, commercial manure applicators can fulfill annual training for manure applicator certification (MAC) requirements at [73 locations](#) in Iowa. Most locations offer training from 9 a.m. to noon, with doors opening at 8:30 a.m.

“Be sure to pre-register by Dec. 27 with your county Extension office,” says Jeff Prier, DNR MAC coordinator. “Walk-ins will not be allowed. Once again this year, there will be eight locations combined with confinement applicators to offer in-person opportunities for commercial applicators. Check the postcard commercial applicators received or the [IMMAG website](#) if you are interested in attending one of these locations.”

Register at the Iowa State University [Extension and Outreach office](#) in the county where you will attend. There is no fee for the workshop.

Two-hour training sessions for Confinement Site Applicators begins Jan. 16 and continues through Feb. 28. [Training sessions](#) are offered throughout the state.

Dry and solid manure handlers can pick from five 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](#)
- Take [training online](#).

Find more information from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach at the [Iowa Manure Management Action Group](#) website under the Commercial or Confinement applicator pages.

To learn more about MAC, visit DNR's [manure applicator](#) webpage or contact your local DNR [field office](#).

County requirements for signup to evaluate animal confinement sites

MEDIA CONTACT: Kelli Book, DNR at Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES -- Counties interested in evaluating construction permits for proposed animal feeding facilities must adopt a construction evaluation resolution. County boards of supervisors may approve the resolutions at any time, but must submit resolutions between January 1 and 31, 2025.

On average, more than 85% of counties pass a resolution each year, allowing them to review construction permit applications required for large confined animal feeding operations.

Producers in counties that file the resolutions must meet additional standards in their construction permits. Producers must earn points on a master matrix by choosing a site and using practices which 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 staff 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.

Send resolutions to Kelli Book at DNR, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50321 or email Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov. Sign-ups in January apply to permit applications DNR receives from February 2025 through January 2026.

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.

Winter land application limits begin soon

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

Confinements with liquid manure--restrictions start Dec. 21

Runoff into streams is more likely to occur during winter manure application due to frozen ground. 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 begin Dec. 21 and continue until April 1. Liquid manure cannot be applied to fields covered with 1 inch or more 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 your local [DNR field office](#) prior to any emergency application..

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 web page.

These three tips can help prevent spills and fish kills, and they'll also help keep applicators safe.

1. **SLOW DOWN!** Getting in a hurry has caused past spills and accidents. Don't try to speed things up and then accidentally miss the corner and land in the ditch.
2. **Be diligent.** Pay attention during pumping and land application, watching the equipment, weather and land. Stay away from saturated soils and be aware of the potential for runoff. Don't over apply. Walk or ride the umbilical line before and during pumping to ensure all of the couplings are and remain fastened. Don't leave running equipment unattended.
3. **Avoid water.** Keep umbilical hoses and application equipment 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.

Reported manure releases are down compared to last year, but if an event 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.

Following [best management practices](#) for the application of manure can help reduce the potential for nutrients to enter Iowa's water resources.



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