

WET WEATHER MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

March 2011

With the amount of snow we have received this winter, now is the time to review the following management practices that can be used to help prevent a discharge or flooding of your system. You may want to put this in your Producer Handbook for future reference.

1. Continue to keep the records required by the general permit that show you are properly operating and maintaining your manure management system. During periods of unusual weather, it is particularly important to be diligent about keeping complete records of precipitation (if applicable), holding pond levels, and land application of manure.
2. If your system includes open lots, ensure that snow is removed from your lots and sediment basins to minimize runoff into holding pond(s). To allow for normal winter operation in open lots, the general permit allows snow containing some manure removed from the concentrated animal feeding operation be land applied on land with slopes less than 4%. A minimum of a 100-foot buffer zone shall be maintained to any natural or manmade drainage. The department recommends producers follow the NRCS 590 Nutrient Management standard requirement that allows no more than 10% of the annual solid manure production to be applied in the winter.
3. Inspect any clean water diversions in your system to ensure they are able to divert clean water away from your manure management system. You may need to remove snow from your clean water diversions to ensure they work properly.
4. If a sediment basin or holding pond berm is adjacent to a stream, creek, or drainage, begin observing it and if necessary, and if possible, take steps to ensure flow in the drainage will not be blocked by snow or ice, or damage or flood your system.
5. Review the fields in your approved nutrient management plan to identify fields you may want to land apply to in the spring. If you need to add fields to your approved nutrient management plan that may be drier and to give you more flexibility, now is the time to submit the information to add these new fields to your nutrient management plan. To add a field, please contact the department. Fields must be in your approved plan prior to land application.
6. Application to frozen or saturated soils is preferable to allowing a holding pond to overflow. Process wastewater or manure shall not be spray irrigated on frozen ground. If application to frozen or snow-covered ground is absolutely necessary, the producer should notify the department prior to application so the department may review buffer zone requirements with the producer and respond to inquiries from the public. The producer shall only apply liquid manure or process wastewater on land with slopes less than 4%. The producer shall also maintain a minimum of a 100-foot buffer zone to any natural or manmade drainage. It is recommended application occur to vegetated fields or high levels of crop residue instead of bare soil. Incorporation is required on bare soil and may not be possible due to moisture conditions.
7. Be vigilant watching application to minimize the potential for runoff into a creek or stream or onto a neighbor's property. Regularly observe points of potential runoff around the perimeter of the land application area so runoff during land application does not occur. You may want to disk around application areas to create a buffer area where runoff is more likely to infiltrate, or build a dike/terrace around fields to prevent runoff, or apply manure at less than the calculated manure application rate to ensure no runoff occurs.
8. Ensure your pumping equipment is in good working order, and communicate with neighbors, county emergency managers, and water development districts so all know your holding pond location, current flooding conditions, and that you may need to locate pumping equipment.
9. If a discharge from the manure management system or a discharge during land application of manure does occur, you must contact the department as soon as possible and within 24-hours by calling (605) 773-3151. If after normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central time on Monday through Friday), you shall report the discharge by calling (605) 773-3231. You must also take immediate steps to stop the discharge and clean up the manure or wastewater, if possible. Anyone downstream that may be impacted by the discharge shall be notified. It is recommended you also contact your county emergency manager. Be prepared to submit a written description of the discharge event and steps taken to minimize effects of the discharge. You will be required to submit your weekly inspection logs showing ponds levels for the past year and precipitation records.

If you have any questions on the requirements of the general permit or would like to discuss options that you may have, contact DANR at (605) 773-3151.