



Twin Lakes Environmental Services, LLC

January 2016

2015 was another busy year!

Not sure how this year went for you folks, but it rather swept us away! We were running hectic all year long just like last year. We hired a new staff member to help us in house with all of the chaos you crazy farmers throw at us on a daily basis (You know we love each and every one of you!) Megan Olson joined us this summer and has truly been a Godsend to our office, and we are very thankful she has joined us. She has taken over our in-house care of Real Time Ag and has also taken a class to learn to do RUSLE2's and P-Indexes and is truly assisting us in great ways. I am attaching a staff photo so you can put faces with the names in our office this year. We don't always know what the people look like we are talking to so thought you might enjoy knowing what we look like . We do have fun sometimes visualizing what we think you might look

like before we meet you though!

Review Your MMP

As always, we encourage you to review your manure management plan to assure all of your fields are truly in your plan, your fields reflect your true crop rotations and that your soil samples are never over 4 years old. We do try to keep you on task with this, but I need you to help me with this as well.

Spreading Records

Also, please be sure you are keeping your spreading records up to date as the DNR is doing spreading record reviews and will want to look at 5 years of spreading records and your manure management plan when they come to do site inspections. You need to be prepared for these inspections at the drop of a hat. If you haven't yet been contacted, it's coming.

DNR Spill Number

DNR Environmental Emergency 24-hour phone number changed July 1. Don't get caught a year from now wondering where you put the new number. Be sure to update your emergency action plans, facility documents, and email/phone contacts. Starting immediately, use the new number, 515-725-8694, to report manure, fertilizer or chemical spills along with fish kills and other environmental emergencies. Manure and chemical spills must be reported within six hours of the onset or discovery of the spill. The sooner you call, the sooner DNR's experienced field office staff can help.

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TLES Office Staff:

Back Row:

Mike Sexton, Larry Heschke

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Services we offer at *T.L.E.S:*

Manure Management Plan (MMP) development to include RUSLE2 and Phosphorus Index

Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) to meet EPA CAFO regulations

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) to meet NRCS EQIP requirements

Online record keeping system: www.realtimeag.com

Pre site consultations and mapping

New Construction

Expansion

Construction site pre-inspections

Matrix calculations

NPDES/Storm Water Permits

DNR site inspections

Manure Application Records

DNR required monitoring

Other services as may be required or requested

Manure Applicator Certification: What You Need To Know

State law requires all commercial manure applicators and confinement site manure applicators (specifically those with over 500 animal units in confinement) to attend annual training to handle, transport or land-apply manure.

multiple choice, true/false exam at a DNR field office.

Dry Manure

Applicators who work with mostly dry or solid manure may want to schedule a training session at one of 7 remaining February workshops. These workshops are focused on application of poultry, cattle, or hog manure in a dry or solid form. They are open to both confinement and commercial applicators.

The workshops are free to attend and open to all. Applicators will be required to submit certification forms and fees to the Iowa DNR to meet manure applicator certification requirements before March 1 to avoid a late fee.

Please register for one of the workshops by calling the number listed with the selected site. All workshops begin at 1 p.m.

Feb. 15, Warren Cultural Center Green Room, Call 641-743-8412 to register

Feb. 10, Buena Vista County Extension Office, Call 712-732-5056 to register.

Feb. 16, Hamilton County, Kamrar Lions Community Building, Call 515-832-9597

Feb. 11, Sioux County, County Extension Office, Orange City, Call 712-737-4230

Feb. 9, Washington County, County Extension Office, Call 319-653-4811

Feb. 17, Winnebago County, Branding Iron restaurant, Thompson, Call 641-584-2261

Feb. 10, Wright County, Heartland Museum, Clarion, Call IA 515-532-3453

Commercial Manure Applicators

To become certified as a Commercial Manure Applicator, complete one of the following:

*View the 3-hour training DVD at your county extension office.

*Schedule an appointment to take (and pass) the applicator exam at your local DNR field office.

*Visit <https://elearning-dnr.iowa.gov> to complete at your leisure— at home or in the office.

Confinement Site Applicators

Farmers who have over 500 animal units in a confinement and apply their own manure need to be certified as a Confinement Site Manure Applicator. The certification is good for 3 calendar years. There are 3 ways to become certified or to renew:

1) Attend a 2-hour training course between January 11 and February 29 at a county extension office.

2) View the 2-hour training video at your county extension office.

3) Take and pass the 50-question,

Iowa's Winter Liquid Manure Application Law

Most producers are aware that surface application of liquid manure from a confinement operation with a manure management plan is prohibited on snow covered ground from Dec. 21 to April 1 and on frozen ground from Feb. 1 to April 1, except when there is an emergency as defined in DNR rules. However, some think that this restriction is broader than it really is. While it is always a good idea to voluntarily exceed legal requirements, manure not regulated in the law (for exam-

ple, liquid manure from a small animal feeding operation (see definition in this article), dry manure from a hoop building or manure from an open feedlot," or liquid manure covered by the law but applied outside of these dates and incorporated or injected, may be applied on frozen or snow covered ground subject to the general requirements for the application of manure covered at the end of this article.

Of particular note this year, the exemp-

tion allowing insufficient manure storage capacity as a reason for emergency manure application has expired. Accordingly, no confinement operation, other than a small animal feeding operation, will be allowed to apply liquid manure under the DNR emergency application procedures covered in this article because of a lack of capacity to store manure from Dec. 21 until April 1.

3 Provisions of the Law on Frozen or Snow-Covered Ground

- ◆ Liquid manure from a confinement operation that qualifies as a "small animal feeding operation" under DNR rules is exempt from the following requirements. A small animal feeding operation is a confinement operation using formed manure storage that has less than 500 animal units of capacity (1,250 head of hogs weighing more than 55 lbs. or 10,000 head of pigs weighing less than 55 lbs.)

Experience with this law shows that the DNR may receive calls from people who see manure application on snow-covered or frozen ground and believe there is a complete ban. The DNR will investigate these calls so producers who are exempt from the requirements of the law may still want to contact the DNR before they apply manure so that the DNR can respond accordingly to any complaints.

- ◆ Liquid manure from a confinement operation that is injected or incorporated on the same date also is exempt from the following restrictions on application on frozen or snow-covered ground. Injection is applying manure beneath the soil surface and incorporation is soil tillage that mixes the manure into the upper four inches or more of soil.

In other words, even if the ground is frozen or snow-covered between the dates set out below, the liquid manure can be applied without complying with the emergency restrictions if it can be injected or incorporated on the same date, subject to the general requirements discussed previously.

- ◆ Surface application of liquid manure from a confinement operation is prohibited on snow-covered ground from Dec. 21 (first day of winter) to April 1 and on frozen ground from Feb. 1 to April 1, except when there is an emergency.

It may seem obvious, but keep in mind that liquid manure from a confinement operation may be applied between these dates if the ground is not frozen or snow covered. Likewise, the manure may be applied before and after these dates even if the ground is frozen or snow covered.

- ◆ Frozen ground is ground that is impenetrable because of frozen soil moisture, but does not include ground that is frozen in the top two inches or less. Snow-covered ground is ground covered by one inch or more of snow or by one-half or more of ice.

Also, the critical factor is the condition of the ground at the time the manure is applied. For example, if the ground is snow covered early in the day but not later in the day, then manure may be surface applied later in the day without being subject to the emergency restrictions. The same applies to manure applied on ground that becomes snow covered that becomes snow covered/frozen after the application. Thus, to ensure compliance with DNR requirements, a producer should document the condition of the ground at the time the manure was applied by keeping a detailed log and/or taking photos.

- ◆ An emergency is when there is an immediate need to apply manure because the manure storage structure is full due to unforeseen circumstances affecting the storage of liquid manure and which are beyond the producer's control. The law specifically states that these unforeseen circumstances must be beyond the control of the producer and include natural disaster, unusual weather conditions, or equipment or structural failure.

The most common example of unusual weather conditions is a prolonged wet period in the fall that delays crop harvest and therefore prevents manure application until the ground is frozen. The most common example of an equipment or structural failure would be a broken water line that fills a manure pit with water.

Applying Liquid Manure on Frozen/Snow-Covered Ground:

1. Telephone the DNR before application.
Manchester: 563-927-2640
Mason City: 641-424-4073
Spencer: 712-262-4177
Atlantic: 712-243-1934
Des Moines: 515-725-0268
Washington: 319-653-2135
2. Apply the liquid manure on land identified in the MMP for emergency application.
3. Apply the liquid manure on land with a Phosphorus Index of 2 or less.
4. Block any surface tile intake on land in the MMP and downgrade from the application during application and for at least two weeks after.
5. Properly manage the manure storage structure, including properly accounting for the amount of manure to be stored.
6. For manure storage structures constructed after July 1, 2009, construct the structure to have at least 180 days of storage.
7. Implement additional measures necessary to contain runoff as necessary to prevent violation of federal EPA effluent standards.

DNR Notes:



The DNR encourages all producers to contact the appropriate DNR field office as soon as possible if a problem arises so that the field office may assist with taking all reasonable steps to handle the situation. Finally, producers should notify neighbors that they will be surface applying manure and work with them to minimize any negative impacts. The critical message to neighbors is that applying on frozen/snow-covered ground is the last resort and that their understanding in an emergency situation is appreciated.

Manure application requirements for frozen/snow-covered ground include:

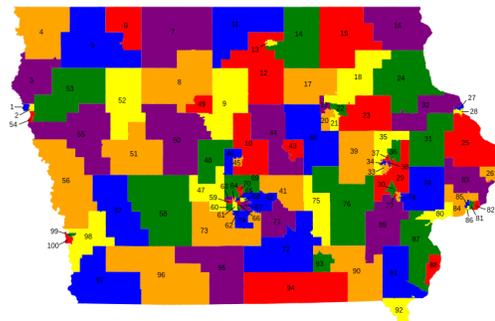
All manure must be applied so as not to cause water pollution.

All manure that is NOT injected/incorporated on same date must be applied at least 200' away from creek, well, or other water body/source and 800'

away from high quality water resource.

If a confinement has a MMP, liquid manure cannot be applied within 750' of a neighbor's residence, business, church, school, or public area unless the manure is injected/incorporated within 24 hours or unless there is a waiver signed.

If a confinement operation has a DNR MMP, all manure must be applied in compliance with the MMP.



Manure Application & Real Time Ag

When applying manure, please be sure you are applying to fields that have been properly added to your manure management plan; especially if you are a client on Real Time Ag. If on Real Time Ag, spreading records cannot be added to the website unless that field is actually a part of your plan. Your manure applicators rely on you as to what fields they can apply to. If they looked at your plan and found these acres were not actually a part of your plan, they would not be able to apply. As you know, it is not hard to add acres to your plan, but we need you to provide that information to us. We are currently receiving calls from manure applicators about fields they applied to but which are not a part of your plan. We can't fix what you don't provide to us.

Once again, Real Time Ag is designed to make sure that what is in the MMP is also what is happening on your farm. If farms are not there or your crop rotations are not correct then manure applications cannot be entered.

TWIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

2203 Ogden Av.
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Crop Rotations - - - They Matter!



Please review your plan regularly, especially every planting season. It is imperative that we have the correct crop rotations on file and marked in your MMP. If your plan does not match what is going on in your fields then let us know immediately. You are allowed to change your crop rotations whenever and however you want, but you **MUST** let us know so that it can be reflected in your plan. You will not be in compliance if your crop rotations do not match your MMP and you could receive a notice of violation from the DNR.

*You are allowed to change crop rotations but you **MUST** have the correct rotation annotated in your MMP. Let us know when you decide to change your rotations.*

We're on the web!
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