



FACT SHEET

# Manure Management

*Properly managed manure can improve soil health, crop yields and reduce the risk of runoff to surface waters.*

June, 2014



Photo Source: IDEM

NRCS works directly with farmers to manage manure as a valuable nutrient source in an environmentally conscious manner. Properly managed manure can improve soil health, crop yields, and reduce the risk of runoff to surface waters.

## MANURE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

Through a scientific planning process and standards, NRCS works with farmers to address resource concerns on their farms. All NRCS standards require that all local, state, and federal laws must be followed.

- The Nutrient Management (590) standard addresses manure applications (rates, timing, placement, setbacks and other) and commercial fertilizer applications (rates, form, placement, timing) from a plant needs and water quality standpoint.
- Waste Storage Facility (313) or Waste Treatment Lagoon (359) are the primary standards to address manure storage needs.

## NRCS ASSISTANCE

NRCS helps farmers and landowners identify natural resources concerns on their farm. NRCS provides technical assistance at no cost to create a conservation plan and identify conservation practices to address resource concerns.

Practices may include nutrient application (590 standard) to address identified water quality or other concerns, or manure storage (313 and 359 standards) to address an identified water quality, odor or other resource concern.

Financial assistance may also be available to help implement conservation practices. Non-livestock farmers who receive manure from livestock facilities may be eligible for financial assistance if an existing resource concern exists on the farm. A contract/agreement to export or receive the manure must be in place, and the farmer must have control of the land for the life of the contract.

## APPLYING, HANDLING OR TRANSPORTING FERTILIZER MATERIAL

Any person applying, handling, or transporting fertilizer material (commercial fertilizer and manure from a confined feeding operation) for hire for purposes of producing an agricultural crop must be:

- Certified and licensed by the Office of Indiana State Chemist in Category 14; or
- Trained and supervised by a Category 14 applicator; or
- Working for a licensed Category 14 fertilizer business.

## BACKGROUND

- Manure is a valuable fertilizer containing varying amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, micronutrients and organic matter, depending on the livestock species and the manure handling and storage, as well as application methods.
- Manure is a cost-efficient form of fertilizer for crops, that if managed and applied correctly, can supply plant-nutrient needs and can enhance soil health through the additional biology and carbon it contains.

Any person applying manure from a confined feeding operation (CFO), in excess of 10 cubic yards or 4,000 gallons per year, to his/her own property must be certified by Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) as a private fertilizer applicator. To apply CFO manure to his/her own farm, private fertilizer applicators must pass the Category 14 exam, submit an application, and pay the applicator's fee.

## STAGING MANURE

Refer to the Fertilizer Application Regulations for Growers Fact sheet ([http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/fertilizer/pdf/fert\\_app\\_regulations\\_growers.pdf](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/fertilizer/pdf/fert_app_regulations_growers.pdf)) for more information on the following:

- Staging (in-field storage) setbacks;
- Cover, or berm, the pile after 72 hours;
- Apply to the field within 90 days;
- Application restrictions and setback distances.



Photo Source: IDEM

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Agriculture Fertilizer Applicator Certification Information and Rule website:** [http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/private\\_applicators.html](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/private_applicators.html)
- **Fertilizer Applicator Certification Rule:** [http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/pdf/fert\\_app\\_outreach\\_11\\_23\\_2010.pdf](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/pdf/fert_app_outreach_11_23_2010.pdf)
- **OISC Fertilizer Use Information Sheet:** [http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/fertilizer/pdf/fert\\_use\\_rules\\_and\\_faq.pdf](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/fertilizer/pdf/fert_use_rules_and_faq.pdf)



Photo Source: IDEM

## BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

- When receiving manure, work with the livestock farm and/or trucking company to decide where to stage the manure in fields. Give them aerial maps and also flag suitable sites. Follow all applicable regulatory setbacks. If the staging site is questionable, consider a different location, greater setbacks, and locating as far away from residential buildings as possible.
- Work with neighbors who will be impacted by manure staging and/or applications ahead of time. Give them your phone number—encourage them to call you first if they have any questions or problems.
- If you are planning to construct a facility to receive manure instead of staging in fields, think long-term—pick locations closest to the crop fields that will receive manure and furthest away from any residential buildings. Select locations most likely to stay in an agricultural use and not likely to be close to residential uses.
- Consider planting a windbreak around the manure facility to help dissipate and disperse odors.

## GOOD TO KNOW

### ***Does fertilizer/manure applicator certification apply to me?***

The new Indiana rule requires farmers that apply manure from a Confined Feeding Operation (CFO), in excess of 10 cubic yards or 4,000 gallons per year, to their own property must be certified by Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) as a private fertilizer applicator.

### ***Do I need a fertilizer distributor license if I distribute the manure?***

Any person (individual, partnership, corporation, business, etc.) that only distributes but does not use fertilizer material must obtain a fertilizer distributor business license. [http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/pdf/fert\\_app\\_outreach\\_11\\_23\\_2010.pdf](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/pdf/fert_app_outreach_11_23_2010.pdf)

### ***How do I become certified to apply manure from a CFO to my own farm?***

[http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/private\\_applicators.html](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/private_applicators.html)

### ***What rules are required for staging manure?***

[http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/fertilizer/pdf/fert\\_app\\_regulations\\_growers.pdf](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/fertilizer/pdf/fert_app_regulations_growers.pdf)

### ***Where do I report a concern?***

To report potentially improperly staged manure: OISC Complaint Investigations 1-800-893-6637. To report manure spills: IDEM, Office of Emergency Response at 1-888-233-7745.

## CONTACTS

### ***Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)***

[www.in.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov)

Phone: (317) 290-3200

NRCS provides landowners with technical and financial assistance to treat a variety of resource concerns. Technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design, and installation. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

Get started by contacting the District Conservationist at your local NRCS field office <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/contact/local/>.



### ***Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC)***

<http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/index.html>

Phone: (765) 494-1492

The Indiana State Chemist administers several agricultural laws involving animal feeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds. These laws are to ensure truth-in-labeling, food safety, user safety and the protection of our environment.

### ***Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)***

IDEM Homepage: <http://www.in.gov/idem/>

Nonpoint Source Pollution website: <http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3432.htm>

CFO/CAFO website: <http://www.in.gov/idem/4994.htm>

Phone: Confined Feeding Operation Approval (317) 232-4473

Phone: IDEM Compliance (317) 308-3016

Phone: IDEM Office of Water Quality (317) 308-3173

IDEM regulates facility setbacks from streams, wells, roads, property boundaries, and residences; manure handling and storage; facility design and construction; manure application rates and setbacks; storm water run-off; and closure of manure storage structures.

The Federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) provides funding for various types of practices to reduce nonpoint source water pollution. Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Agricultural Best Management Practices Guidance for Indiana. <http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3432.htm>