

Manure Management Challenges



Full Storages and Poor Field Conditions – Fall 2019

The past few seasons have been challenging with rain, snow, we and flooded fields, late planting and harvest, warm and cold temperatures – the list goes on. There are concerns regarding full manure storages, soil conditions, and unpredictable weather patterns. These factors may result in making manure management more difficult and limit available options this fall and winter. In order to remain in compliance with County and State nutrient and manure management requirements, the following recommendations may help to minimize the risk of manure runoff or manure storage overtopping.

Transfer manure to another manure storage:

Do neighboring farms have capacity in their manure storages and could store some of your manure until conditions improve? Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Department (PCD) has some information regarding storages in the County and may be able to assist in identifying storage options. A manure storage has a margin of safety that is generally 12 to 15 inches below the lowest point of storage berm or wall. The margin of safety should not be exceeded. If you have solid manure, work with your agronomist or PCD to find temporary stacking locations to place the manure until conditions improve for land application.

Apply manure to low risk fields:

Are you going to need to spread manure during frozen or snow-covered conditions through winter? If you need to apply manure during frozen or snow-covered conditions, a winter spreading plan is required. Contact Sheboygan County PCD to determine what needs to be submitted to qualify as a plan. Your agronomist may be able to provide assistance as well. The winter spreading plan includes:

- A winter spreading plan identifying fields, setbacks, practices to minimize risk, and application rates for manure applications during frozen or snow-covered conditions.
- An emergency action plan identifying who to contact and what to do in the event of a manure runoff event, spill, or manure storage overtopping.
- A spreading log used to track application rates, fields, conditions, date of applications, etc. for your records and updates to your nutrient management plan.

Check the weather and field conditions.:

Is weather predicted that could increase the risk of runoff or are field conditions not suitable for manure applications? In order to assess short-term potential runoff risk, review the Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast at www.manureadvisoraysystem.wi.gov/runoffrisk/index. Save a copy to document the information you used to make decisions to apply manure.



Develop a nutrient management plan (NMP):

Do you have an NMP for your operation? NMPs help budget nutrients for plant production while minimizing the risk of runoff of nutrients and soil to water resources. Sheboygan County PCD has funding available to assist with the development of an NMP. NMPs include winter spreading plans and can be used to meet requirements of the County's winter spreading plan requirements. Agronomists or co-ops are typically able to assist in the development of an NMP.



Report manure spills or runoff events immediately:

Did something unexpected happen that resulted in a manure spill, storage overtopping, or manure runoff event? Contact the **WDNR Spills Hotline at (800) 943-0003** to immediately report spills. This is a 24-hour spill emergency hotline. Note that all agricultural or livestock operations, regardless of size, must report manure spills or runoff that have the potential to impact Wisconsin's water resources. Be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name, address, location of the spill, and property owner's name (if different).
- The nature of the material including quantity, state, and chemical characteristics.
- Actions that are being done to stop the release and/or contain the material to minimize impact to the environment.
- Potential for manure to reach nearby water resources or impact human health.

Remember, an accidental spill is not illegal. Failure to report the spill is.

Note: WPDES permitted CAFOs have additional requirements that need to be met under the WPDES permit.

Planning, Technical, and Financial Assistance Available

The PCD provides planning assistance and technical services at no charge to assist landowners and producers with the implementation of conservation practices to protect water quality and conserve soil. Financial assistance and cost-share funding may be available for many conservation practices. Staff can assist with finding options that work for your operation.

Contact our office to discuss your situation and options available to you.

Contact Information:

Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Dept.
508 New York Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081-4126
(920) 459-1370

Animal Waste Ordinance (Chapter 77 of the Sheboygan County Code of Ordinances)

<https://www.sheboygancounty.com/home/showdocument?id=6880>

