

LMMMR News

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Inside this Issue

Office of the Auditor General
Recommendation

Manure Application Limitations
during the Fall and Winter

Registration of Older Manure Storage
Facilities

Monitoring Wells

Storage of Broiler Litter

Beneficial Management Practices
Incentives & Conditions for Approval

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News from Conservation's Environmental Services: Livestock Section

Office of the Auditor General Recommendation: Collaboration with Municipal Governments

From March 1998 to June 2005, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) performed an Audit of the Department of Conservation's management of the Environmental Livestock Program. The OAG has recommended that the Livestock Program of Environmental Services initiate collaboration on issues of mutual interest with other levels of government.

Recently, Manitoba Conservation issued letters to municipal offices seeking the sharing of information between the municipal government level and the provincial government level regarding species and animal type, the number of animals and animal units, the date of establishment of the operation, the date of the most recent expansion of the operation, the legal land location, and the contact information of the operation.

Manitoba Conservation will also have a booth set up at the 2009 Planning Conference in Brandon from October 28 through October 30, 2009 to further expand the lines of communication with the various municipalities throughout the province.

Reminder: Manure Application Limitations during the Fall and Winter



Fall Application

- Fall is defined as between **September 10** and **November 10** of any year.
- Operations Located in Regularly Inundated Areas: Manure that is applied to tilled lands in the fall must be injected or incorporated within 48 hours of application. This is not required for manure applied

to perennial forage or no till systems. Regularly Inundated Areas include the [Red River Valley Special Management Area](#) and areas subject to flooding on an average basis at least once every 5 years.



Winter Application

- Winter is defined as between **November 10** of one year and **April 10** of the following year.
- Operations 300 AU or greater in size are prohibited from winter application.
- Operations of 300 to 400 AU established prior to spring 2004 will be prohibited from winter application as of **November 10, 2010**.
- Operations of 300 AU or less located in a regularly inundated area will be prohibited from winter application as of **November 10, 2013**. Amendments to the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation are proposed to expand this requirement to all operations regardless of location.
- Operations that are not prohibited from winter application must follow setback requirements prescribed in Schedule B of the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation.

Registration of Older Manure Storage Facilities

Have not applied for registration yet? – The deadline for application has already lapsed.

So far, approximately 450 livestock producers have filed their application for registration. Operators who have not submitted their application for registration of older earthen manure storage, steel or concrete tank, underbarn storage, molehills, or a long term (greater than 30 day) storage for solid manure must do so immediately; application forms can be obtained from Manitoba Conservation offices or from the above-mentioned website.

Environment Officers are currently visiting operations to advise of the requirements for field storage and long term manure storage. They are keeping records of operations who have been visited including those who have not yet applied for registration of their manure storage facilities. The objective of the site visit is to help producers come into compliance with the provincial requirements for storage of manure.



As of November 10, 2010 all manure storage facilities must be registered

with Manitoba Conservation. This requirement excludes manure storage facilities that were constructed under the authority of a permit.

Registration process

Manitoba Conservation staff are currently reviewing applications to prioritize them in regards to potential environmental risk. Staff will initially focus on manure storage facilities located in environmentally sensitive areas as well as those which are unlikely to pose risks to the environment. Manure storage facilities that are located in environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and slated for inspection as soon as practical. At the same time, staff will attempt to fast track registration of storages that are located in sites presenting low environmental risks and are structurally sound. The remaining manure storage facilities will be addressed in a second phase.

MONITORING WELLS

Monitoring wells are installed as means of leak detection around earthen manure storage facilities, confined livestock areas, and manure or mortality composting facilities. In the case of concrete or steel manure storage facilities, a leak detection with a sump collection pit would be installed to ensure any defects in the floor or walls would be directed to the sump collection pit. If monitoring wells are required by the Director, the operator must install and maintain the monitoring wells in a manner satisfactory to the Director.



The deadline for submissions of water analysis reports of water samples from monitoring wells is December 31 annually. Operators are encouraged to perform sampling of monitoring wells 30 to 60 days after the spring melt and before July 1 of every year to ensure the wells are not frozen and/or dry. The objective is to sample at a time where the water table is generally elevated but after normal draining of snowmelt water has subsided.



During the summer of 2009, Manitoba Conservation performed an audit of monitoring wells surrounding approximately thirty permitted manure storage facilities throughout the province. The sites were selected randomly from all permitted manure storage facilities with monitoring wells and the owners/operators selected were notified prior to the audit. Monitoring wells were sampled for electric conductivity (EC), Nitrate-Nitrite-N, Ammonia-N, and Chloride-Cl. Manitoba Conservation is still awaiting results for part of the audit. In addition, the audit results will be compared with previous data submitted by the operator to verify information. The data will be plotted to identify potential contaminant trends.

Information regarding sampling, sample bottles and equipment, purging, and approved laboratories can be found on our website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/livestock>. In addition, you can contact Geoffrey Stephens, Technical Review Officer at (204) 945-5168 for any monitoring well inquiries.

Storage of Broiler Litter

The *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation (LMMMMR) MR42/98* requires that manure be stored either as field storage or in a manure storage facility.



These requirements apply to all types of livestock manure including the broiler litter pile at the end of the barn. A copy of the regulation can be obtained at the Manitoba Conservation Livestock Program website www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/livestock or a local regional Manitoba Conservation office.

Field Storage

Broiler operations may store solid manure as field storage (Section 7 of the *LMMMMR*) requiring that all manure piles resulting from cleanout of the barns are moved to the field within 30 days. It also requires that manure stored in the field be setback at least 100 meters from any surface watercourse, sinkhole, spring or well. Manure stored as field storage must be spread by November 10 of the year following the year from when it is stored in the field. After the manure is removed, that area of the field cannot be used again for field storage for at least 12 months and, a crop must be grown on the area where manure had been stored as field storage.

Long Term Manure Storage

Construction of long term manure storage facilities (including storage of solid manure) is now subject to a permit issued by Manitoba Conservation (Section 6 of the *LMMMMR*). The permitting process includes all permanent (30 days or more) manure storage facilities used for storing manure (excluding field storage). Manure storage facilities not constructed under the authority of a permit must be registered (Section 16.3 of the *LMMMMR*) with Manitoba Conservation by November 10, 2010.



Manitoba Conservation staff will be presenting this information in more detail at the Manitoba Chicken Producers meeting held on October 28, 2009.

BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INCENTIVES & CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

The Province of Manitoba recently announced incentive funding for implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) offered under the Environmental Farm Action Program and the Manitoba Sustainable Agriculture Practices Program. Funding is subject to proponents obtaining all applicable approvals through Manitoba Conservation.

A permit is required for construction/modification/expansion of any manure storage facility. Manure treatment facilities including solid-liquid separators and permanent manure composting facilities are considered manure storage facilities. Installation of a cover is considered a major modification to a manure storage facility and requires a permit. Any operator who proposes minor repairs of a manure storage facility must apply in writing to the department for director's approval.

In addition, pig operations of 10 animal units or more and all other livestock operations of 300 animal units or more are subject to a permit for construction/modification/expansion of confined livestock operations; where no permit is required, applicants are encouraged to contact the department in advance. By contacting the department in advance, proponent's demonstrate due diligence regarding the requirement that no person shall operate a confined livestock area in a manner that causes pollution.

Setback requirements of the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation apply to all livestock operations. Minimum setback requirements of 100 meters from surface water courses, surface water bodies, sinkholes, wells, and springs are in effect for field storage of manure, manure and mortality composting sites, confined livestock areas, and manure storage facilities. In addition, manure storage facilities, manure and mortality composting facilities, and confined livestock areas must be setback a minimum of 100 m from property boundaries.

The [Environmental Farm Action Program – Beneficial Management Practices Catalogue](#) provides details on incentive funding for BMP Categories. It includes but is not limited to:

increased manure storage capacity	(permit required from Conservation);
improved manure storage and handling	(permit required from Conservation);
solid-liquid separation of manure	(permit required from Conservation);
composting of manure	(permit required from Conservation for permanent composting area);
farm yard runoff control	(permit required from Conservation if 300 animal units or more);
relocation of livestock confinement facilities	(permit required from Conservation if 300 animal units or more); and
nutrient management planning	(annual manure management plans are required for all livestock operations of 300 animal units or more).

The [Manitoba Sustainable Agriculture Practices Program – Beneficial Management Practices Catalogue](#) provides details on incentive funding for BMP Categories for reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG). It includes but is not limited to:

reduced GHG emissions from manure storage	(permit for permanent cover required from Conservation)
manure land application	(no pre-approval required for purchasing equipment)

For more information on Manitoba Conservation's requirements, please contact your regional Manitoba Conservation Environment Officer.

Who are you going to call?

Manure management plan questions should be directed to Headquarters. Matters regarding all other aspects of the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Regulation* should be directed to the Regional contacts. For reporting a spill, emergency spreading, or any emergencies, call your Regional contact. After hours, use the emergency response number.

Emergency Response 944-4888	
MMP	Headquarters Operations Ph: 945-3078 Winnipeg Fax: 948-2420
Regional Contacts Manitoba Conservation	Eastern Ph: 346-6060 Steinbach Western Ph: 726-6064 Brandon Ph: 622-2030 Dauphin Central Ph: 945-7100 Winnipeg Ph: 642-6095 Gimli