

# LMMMR News

News from Conservation and Water Stewardship's Livestock Section

## Inside this Issue

### Restriction on Winter Application of Nutrients

### Submission of Spreading Confirmation Sheets for Your Manure Management Plan

## Restriction on Winter Application of Nutrients

Provincial legislation prohibits the application of nitrogen and phosphorus between November 10<sup>th</sup> of one year and April 10<sup>th</sup> of the following year. Nutrient sources containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus include, but are not limited to, synthetic fertilizers, livestock manure and compost. The winter spreading restrictions are in place as the application of nutrients onto frozen or snow-covered soils results in an increased risk of nutrient runoff. Nutrient runoff to waterways contributes directly to algal blooms in Lake Winnipeg and elsewhere.

However, there may be some years where weather conditions are such that agricultural land can reasonably be worked to apply nutrients between November 10<sup>th</sup> of one year and April 10<sup>th</sup> of the following year for crop uptake while still protecting water quality. In these cases, a provincial or regional variance may be issued.

For livestock manure specifically, there are two mechanisms in regulation that may allow for manure applications between November 10<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>: (1) local weather and soil conditions; and (2) emergency or extenuating circumstances. The two options are discussed in detail below.

### **(1) LOCAL WEATHER AND SOIL CONDITIONS**

#### **Provincial/Regional Variances**

Provincial legislation (Section 12(2) of the Nutrient Management Regulation (M.R. 62/2008) and Section 14(5) of the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation (M.R. 42/98)) authorizes the director to vary these dates if conditions are such that soils remain thawed and are not snow covered after November 10<sup>th</sup> providing nutrients can reasonably be worked into the soil for crop uptake or if soils thaw earlier than April 10<sup>th</sup> in the spring.

The following two policies are currently in effect:

- Application in spring prior to April 10th - [http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/waterstewardship/wqmz/pdf/vary\\_spring\\_nutrient\\_application\\_dates.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/waterstewardship/wqmz/pdf/vary_spring_nutrient_application_dates.pdf)
- Application in autumn after November 10th - [http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/waterstewardship/wqmz/pdf/vary\\_autumn\\_nutrient\\_application\\_dates.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/waterstewardship/wqmz/pdf/vary_autumn_nutrient_application_dates.pdf)

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Ph.: 204-945-8541  
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The following sources of information are used as described in the two policies to determine whether a variance will be issued:

- Manitoba Ag-Weather Program - Daily soil temperatures monitoring network - <http://tgs.gov.mb.ca/climate/YesterdaysConditions.aspx>
- Environment Canada - Long term weather forecast - [http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada\\_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada_e.html)
- Environment Canada - Visual spectrum images to determine snow cover using the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite through a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - [http://weather.gc.ca/data/satellite/goes\\_wcan\\_visible\\_100.jpg](http://weather.gc.ca/data/satellite/goes_wcan_visible_100.jpg)

## Individual Variances

When a regional/province-wide variance has not been issued for the winter application of nutrients and an individual producer believes their soil/weather conditions should be considered for a variance, agricultural producers must contact staff in the Nutrient Management Regulation program at [nmr@gov.mb.ca](mailto:nmr@gov.mb.ca) or by phone at (204) 945-0002. If an individual wishes to make a formal request for a variance, the request must be provided in writing by a Professional Agrologist or Certified Crop Adviser.

## **(2) EMERGENCY OR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES**

At any time throughout the winter, emergency situations may occur. Pursuant to Section 14(4) of the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation (M.R. 42/98), the director may authorize winter application of manure due to an emergency situation or extenuating circumstance. Examples may include the manure storage facility reaching its capacity or the imminent failure of a manure storage facility.

To be eligible, operators or consultants must first submit a written request for approval to Environmental Programs and Strategies Branch in Winnipeg at: [mmpregistration@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mmpregistration@gov.mb.ca) or by phone at (204) 391-0540 or (204) 945-3078. They can provide listing of the information required in the written request such as contact information, location, reasons for the emergency or extenuating circumstances, and proposed manure application details to name a few.

If authorization is granted, operators must adhere to the minimum regulatory setback distance requirements as follows:

- 10 m from any property boundary
- distance from surface watercourse, sinkhole, spring or well;
  - 150 m for land with mean slope of < 4%
  - 300 m for land with mean slope of 4% or more but < 6%
  - 450 m for land with mean slope of 6% or more but < 12%
- no spreading for land with mean slope of 12% or more

For further information consult:

- Nutrient Management Regulation <http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/wqmz/index.html>
- Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/livestock/index.html>

The status of variances will be updated periodically and is also available at the following link: [www.manitoba.ca/nutrientdates](http://www.manitoba.ca/nutrientdates).

**Submission of Spreading Confirmation Sheets for Your Manure Management Plan**

If you have not already done so, please remember that spreading confirmation sheets pertaining to manure application this fall (2015 MMP) are to be submitted after manure application.

In general, submitting confirmation sheets shortly after your seasonal applications ensures your file will be up to date. This is important once MMP submission deadlines approach because all spreading confirmation sheets for the previous crop year must be submitted prior to manure application for the following MMP (i.e. Confirmation Sheets relating to your 2015 MMP must be submitted prior to any manure application intended for your 2016 MMP).

If you have any questions regarding the submission of Confirmation Sheets or MMPs, please contact Diane Smith at 204-391-0540 or Richard Balog at 204-945-3078.

***Who are you going to call?***

General inquiries, manure management plan (including emergency spreading), and source water analysis questions should be directed to Environmental Programs and Strategies Branch.

Engineering questions are to be directed to Environmental Approvals Branch.

Matters regarding all other aspects of the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation* should be directed to Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

For reporting a spill or any emergencies, call your Environmental Compliance and Enforcement contact. After hours, use the emergency response number.

<b>Emergency Response (24 Hour)</b> 1-855-944-4888	
<b>Environmental Programs and Strategies</b>	<p><b>General Inquiries</b> Ph: 204-945-8541 Winnipeg</p> <p><b>Manure Management Plans</b> Ph: 204-945-3078 Winnipeg</p> <p><b>Source Water/TRC/Monitoring Well</b> Ph: 204-945-4384 Winnipeg</p>
<b>Environmental Compliance and Enforcement</b>	<p><b>Eastern</b> Ph: 204-346-6060 Steinbach</p> <p><b>Western</b> Ph: 204-726-6565 Brandon Ph: 204-622-2030 Dauphin</p> <p><b>Central</b> Ph: 204-945-0675 Winnipeg Ph: 204- 641-4091 Gimli Ph: 204-239-3868 Portage La Prairie</p>
<b>Environmental Approvals</b>	<p><b>Engineering Section</b> Ph: 204-945-8321 Winnipeg</p> <p><b>Registration Program</b> Ph: 204-782-3890 Winnipeg</p>