

# Update on Winter Spreading Permits and Fall Conditions

Land Conservation Committee Meeting  
November 14, 2019

# Winter Spreading Permits under Ch. 49

- Issued to date: 86 permits
  - 14,202 planned acres
  - 45,757 planned tons (solid manure)
  - 14,082,235 planned gallons (liquid manure)
- Applications under review/development: 64
- Mixture of county developed and agronomist developed plans
  - ~ 22 developed by LWRD
- Existing permits (under Ch. 14)
  - 82 in total
    - 16 expired and need to be renewed under Ch. 49
  - Approximately 10 have opted to update to Ch. 49 requirements (to add solid manure to their plans)
  - Remainder continue to operate under Ch. 14 permit until expiration

# Frequent Questions Regarding WSPs

- Size of operation
  - Is there an animal number threshold the permit does/does not apply to
    - i.e. CAFOs vs. Hobby Farms
- Fees
  - Requests to have permit application fees waived for early applicants (similar to certificate of use)

# Fall Conditions

- Wet, saturated soils
  - Crops yet to be harvested
  - Rain/snow
  - Warm/freezing temperatures
  - Full storages
- Fall 2018 – wet, late harvest
  - Spring 2019 – wet, late planting
  - Fall 2019 – wet, late harvest, snow

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# Wisconsin Manure Applicator Update

## Full storage, frozen fields and mud: What are the options?

Kevin Erb, UW Extension - November 4, 2019

2019 is a year of frustrating challenges for manure application. Early season cold weather is not making things any easier. If there is a silver lining, it's that the industry and agencies are really working together to help farmers through this difficult time - things go better if the farmer is proactive rather than reacting to a problem the neighbor noticed. While there are no "simple solutions", there are things to keep in mind over the next few months.

CAFO/permitted operations should check with both the WI DNR and the county Land and Water Conservation Department ( LWCD) before taking any action, as pre-approval may be required.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a farm. In the foreground, there is a large, light-colored barn with a gabled roof. Behind the barn, several tall, cylindrical metal silos are visible against a cloudy sky. The overall scene is a typical rural farm setting.

# Options for full storages...

- Find alternative storage
  - Transfer manure from a full storage to an empty or underutilized storage
  - Should check with LWRD first
- Add to/Modify existing storage
  - Needs approval from LWRD first
  - Concerns regarding seepage between compacted and un-compacted layers
- Take to a sewage treatment plant
  - Can be very expensive
  - Treatment plants may not have capacity

# Considerations for land application...

- Work with Agronomist/LWRD
- Apply to lowest risk fields
- Consider non-traditional fields
- Watch weather forecasts
- Adjust applications
- Work fields before land application
- Walk fields and increase setbacks to newly formed features
- Borrow/rent tanker to get some material out of storage

# Recommendations for Documentation

- Take photos of applications
  - Record weather conditions
  - Track application rates/methods
  - Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast
  - Contact DNR Spills Hotline (800) 943-0003
    - <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/AgBusiness/ManureSpills.html>
    - How to respond to a manure spill
- Accidental spills are not illegal. Failure to report a spill is.

# Concrete Frost

- Soil is full of water – no air pockets
  - Typically occurs in January as part of the thaw
  - Will likely occur as soon as the ground freezes this fall
- Very little infiltration capacity for manure, melting snow, precipitation
  - Liquid manure and slowly melting snow will soak into the soil during a normal winter



# Complaint Response

- Spills/runoff events: Report to the DNR Spills Hotline
  - Allows for a coordinated effort between agencies for response
  - DNR can use spills authority to require action
- General complaints: Investigate and work with landowner/producer on solutions
  - Focus on educational opportunities with new ordinance and conservation practices

# Questions

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