

GUIDELINE FOR PUMPING MANURE CONTAMINATED WATER FROM FLOODED ENCLOSURES, CATCH BASINS AND FIELDS; AND MANURE SPREADING ON FROZEN OR SNOW COVERED FIELDS

Pumping manure contaminated water

Manure contaminated runoff can occur during severe storms and other weather related events. Operators who face potential runoff issues and wish to pump manure contaminated water from flooded confined feeding pens, enclosures or runoff control catch basins should take the following steps:

1. Contact the nearest field office of the NRCB during office hours (see contact information, below).
2. In case of an emergency after business hours, phone the toll free NRCB Response Line (1-866-383-6722) and ask to be connected to the on-call inspector.
3. Follow these requirements:
 - a. Fields with recently applied manure:
 - Runoff containing manure is **not** permitted to leave fields that have been recently spread with manure.
 - If there is any potential for the contaminated runoff to enter a fish bearing water body or water body used for domestic consumption, pumping should be immediately stopped. The operator is required to call Alberta Environment's response line (1-800-222-6514) to report the release.
 - If pumping is not stopped, enforcement action may be taken.
 - b. Containment on the CFO:
 - Operators are allowed to pump if the manure-contaminated water will be contained on their land and will not enter a common body of water. As an example, once the ground dries out somewhat, it may be possible to irrigate the contaminated water onto drier areas of land.

- c. Fields that have **not** had manure applied:
 - If operators are pumping uncontaminated water off their property, they are required to obtain the permission of the party who owns the land or system that the water will be pumped onto or into, and must ensure that the pumping does not create an adverse effect.

Manure spreading on snow covered or frozen ground

Spreading manure on snow-covered or frozen ground is prohibited by the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* unless specifically authorized on a case by case basis by the NRCB.

- The *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* prohibits manure spreading on snow covered or frozen ground, but has a provision that allows the NRCB to issue a special dispensation in unique circumstances.
- Farmers who are unable to spread manure because their fields are snow covered or frozen must contact an NRCB inspector to discuss their situation.
- The NRCB inspector will meet with them to assess their situation and determine the best steps for handling their manure.

For more information about dealing with manure runoff please contact:

NRCB field offices (dial 310-0000 to be connected toll free):

Morinville	780-939-1212
Red Deer	403-340-5241
Lethbridge	403-381-5166
Response Line	1-866-383-6722

Fact sheets and other NRCB publications are available at:
www.nrcb.ca

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Office contacts updated February 12, 2018