



Applying Manure on Frozen or Snow Covered Land

Fact Sheet

Legislated requirements

- Sections 24(6) and (7) of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA) Standards and Administration Regulation state that owners and operators of confined feeding operations (CFOs) or manure storage facilities with at least nine months of manure storage must not apply manure on frozen or snow covered land, **unless prior written permission is received from the NRCB, or the NRCB issues a notice allowing application due to weather conditions.**
- Cow calf operations are exempt from the requirement to obtain permission. However, owners and operators of these operations are encouraged to notify the NRCB so that inspectors can respond appropriately to any complaints. The spreading must not create a risk to the environment.

Liquid manure

- The NRCB recognizes that in exceptional circumstances (for example, imminent overflow from an earthen manure storage), operators may need to apply liquid manure on frozen or snow covered land. **In these circumstances the operator must contact their local NRCB office to request permission to apply the manure.**
- An NRCB inspector will meet with the operator to review the request and inspect the land that is being considered for the manure application. Topography, slope, and distance to water bodies will be considered to assess the risks from potential surface water runoff.
- If permission is granted, the inspector will require the operator to comply with the following conditions:
 - > Setbacks must be double those specified in section 24(10) of the Standards and Administration Regulation for common

bodies of water. Similar setbacks are required for drainage courses that lead off the property (including roadside ditches).

- > Spreading must not be closer than 150 m to any residence.
 - > The proposed spreading fields must not have received manure or fertilizer within the previous seven months.
 - > The operator must keep a record of spreading activities and soil test results.
- The operator of the CFO and the owner of the land to which manure is applied are responsible for ensuring that manure-contaminated runoff from the field does not create a risk to the environment.
 - CFOs constructed before January 1, 2002 that do not have nine months of liquid manure storage are exempt from the requirement to obtain permission. However, owners and operators of these CFOs are encouraged to notify the NRCB so that inspectors can respond appropriately to any complaints. In addition, the
 - > spreading must comply with AOPA's nutrient management requirements, and must not create a risk to the environment.
 - > NRCB recommends doubling the setbacks required under section 24(10) for common bodies of water, and applying similar setbacks from drainage courses that run off the property (including roadside ditches).

Non-compliance

- Non-compliance, including failure to obtain permission to apply on frozen or snow covered land, may result in enforcement action being taken by the NRCB.

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Exceptional weather events

- In the case of exceptional weather events that prevent the normal land application of manure, the NRCB may permit CFOs in a defined geographical area to apply manure on frozen or snow covered land. Conditions related to this permission would be included in a public notice.
- In emergency situations such as significant snow storms, the NRCB normally allows snow that contains minimal amounts of solid manure to be removed from pens and spread on frozen or snow covered land.

Solid manure

- Owners and operators of CFOs with solid manure systems have the option of stockpiling their manure. The NRCB encourages using either long term or short term manure storage.
- Permission to spread on frozen or snow covered land may be granted on a case-by-case basis under exceptional circumstances.
- Before granting permission to apply solid manure on frozen or snow covered land, inspectors will conduct a site inspection of the land that is being considered for the manure application. The inspector will consider a variety of factors (e.g., topography, slope, distance to water bodies) to assess the risks associated with potential surface water runoff.
- If permission is granted to spread solid manure on frozen or snow covered land, the inspector will require the operator to comply with the following conditions:
 - > Setbacks must be double those specified in section 24(10) of the Standards and Administration Regulation for common bodies of water. Similar setbacks must be required for drainage courses that lead off the property (including roadside ditches).

- > Spreading must not be closer than 150 m to any residence.
- > The proposed spreading fields must not have received manure or fertilizer within the previous seven months.
- > The operator must keep a record of spreading activities and soil test results.

Definitions and tests

- Technical Guideline Agdex 096-70: Definitions for Frozen and Snow-covered Land provides guidance on how to determine if the land is considered to be frozen or snow covered. The guideline is available on the NRCB website and on the Agriculture and Forestry website (go to AOPA Legislation).

Further information

- For more information about manure application on frozen or snow covered land, or if you have any other questions relating to AOPA requirements, please contact:

NRCB field offices:

Morinville	780-939-1212
Red Deer	403-340-5241
Lethbridge	403-381-5166

Dial 310-0000 to be connected toll free

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

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