



# Temporary Operating Suspension of Confined Feeding Operations and Earthen Manure Storage Facilities

# Fact Sheet

## Temporary operating suspension

- This fact sheet is for operators who have or who are planning to temporarily suspend use, for no longer than four years, of their confined feeding operation (CFO) or of an earthen liquid manure storage facility (EMS). If suspension is longer the operator must contact the NRCB.
- Permits issued by the NRCB and deemed permits under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA) do not have an expiry date. Producers who temporarily suspend their operation will not see any change to their AOPA permit status.
- Because each situation is unique, operators should contact the NRCB to discuss their individual situation.
- During the suspension period it is important to maintain the integrity of manure storage and collection areas (for example, pen and barn floors, or manure pits). Maintaining structures in operating condition will minimize start-up costs and delays.

## Remove manure from CFO facilities

- AOPA regulations require all manure to be removed within one year from the time the manure storage ceases to be used, unless the operator is advised of a different time period by the NRCB.

## Protect liquid manure storage liners

- Earthen liquid manure storage liners should be protected by leaving enough water in the EMS to help protect the liner from damage caused by freeze/thaw cycles. In addition, the following measures are recommended:
  - Maintain the physical integrity of the natural protective layer or clay liner (for example, prevent the growth of deep-rooted plants in or near the EMS)
  - Maintain existing run-on control systems that divert surface water away from the EMS

- Prevent runoff from the storage facility by observing the liquid level. Liquid in the EMS is considered manure and must be land applied in a manner that protects surface water and soil quality, as required by AOPA and regulations
  - Continue EMS groundwater monitoring requirements as directed by the NRCB
- If the liquid manure storage has a synthetic liner, consult the liner's supplier and the NRCB for the best method of maintaining integrity of the liner during the CFO's temporary suspension.

## Review the status of a suspended EMS

- Operators are encouraged to review the status of a suspended EMS with an NRCB officer. This review allows the operator to discuss any issues with the suspended EMS and future plans for the EMS.

## Permanent decommissioning

- Operators who are considering a permanent shutdown or decommissioning should contact the NRCB, as additional action may be required.

## Further information

For more information, please contact an NRCB approval officer or inspector at the NRCB field office nearest you.

### 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](http://www.nrcb.ca)

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