

# Manure Management



## Right Rate

- Avoid applying more manure than needed, excess product can lead to increased run-off
- Compare foliar nutrient analysis results with manure nutrient content to target plant needs



## Right Source

- Manure incorporated into the soil is less likely to run-off or volatilize
- Especially important for sloped areas and areas with close surface water and during wet seasons



## Right Time

- Apply only when weather conditions are favorable
- Avoid using manure in late fall and early spring
- Frequent rain and saturated soil increase the risk of run-off



## Right Placement

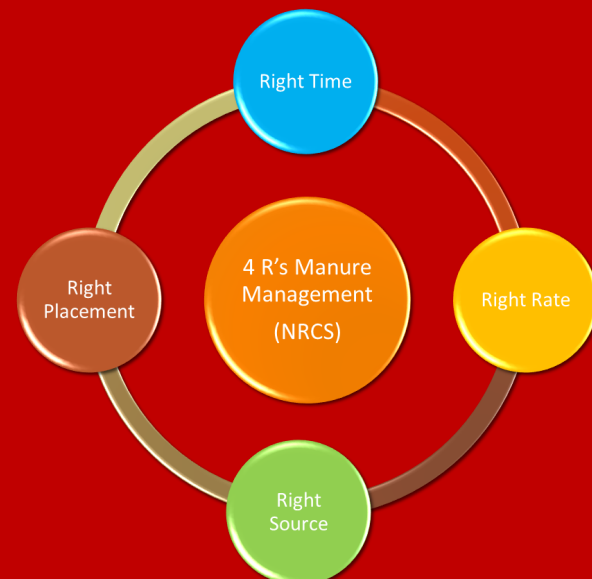
- Avoid manure use close to waterways
- Take care in manure application on slopes
- Avoid manure use on areas that frequently flood.

## Manure Storage

Manure should be properly covered and contained to prevent runoff or leaching to groundwater

Store your manure:

- At least 100 feet of waterbody
- At least 250 feet of wells
- Sloping away from surface water
- Away from neighbors
- Away from fields in flood plane



## Seasonal Manure Application Setback Distances

| Jan             | Feb             | Mar | Apr | May                | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov               | Dec               |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 80 <sub>3</sub> | 80 <sub>3</sub> | 40  | 40  | 40/10 <sub>1</sub> | 10  | 10  | 10  | 40  | 80  | 80 <sub>2,3</sub> | 80 <sub>2,3</sub> |

Units in standard feet

<sup>1</sup>This is a floating date and should be evaluated based on current weather and forecast information.

<sup>2</sup>Application during November and December is typically not necessary and must be shown to be agronomic before manure is applied.

<sup>3</sup>Any manure application made from November-February should have a winter spreading plan in place.

See your local county guidelines for critical areas ordinance setbacks and/or manure application ordinance

**Understanding and mediating the risks associated with manure application is the key to successful and ecologically sound manure use. The following resources can help in manure application:**

- Manure Application Risk Management (ARM)- <http://www.wadairyplan.org/ARM>
- Manure Spreading Advisory (MSA)- <http://www.whatcomcd.org/msa>

### Application of Liquid Manure

- Soil tests = How much manure do you need?
- Get a test – will vary by season and facility
- Injection is best in high risk seasons
- Observe the forecast to find best timing
- Watch for swales/slopes to waterways
- Follow manure setback guidance



### Application of Solid Manure

- Observe manure setback distances
- Incorporate immediately or have vegetative filter
- Don't store manure piles:
  - On fields in flood plane
  - Within 100 feet of surface water
  - Within 250 feet of wells

Contact a Conservation District Resource Specialist for assistance. We can meet you on your farm or at our office.

**No Charge. Non Regulatory. Practical Solutions.**

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