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.

WCD works with landowners on a voluntary, no fee basis. WCD is a non-regulatory sub-unit of state government funded by grants.
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

### Seasonal Manure Application Setback Distances

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
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Units in standard feet

1. This is a floating date and should be evaluated based on current weather and forecast information.
2. Application during November and December is typically not necessary and must be shown to be agronomic before manure is applied.
3. 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.

### Application of Liquid Manure

- Soil test = 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.**

(360) 526-2381 · 6975 Hannegan Road, Lynden, WA. 98264 · www.whatcomcd.org