Manure Application Setback Distances

When applying manure, remember to follow the manure application setback guidelines in your Plan. These setbacks will help you avoid applying too close to a waterbody or sensitive area when the risk of runoff is high.

When in doubt, stay back 40 feet from all waterways and increase that to 80 feet from October 1 - February 28. (See table below for seasonal distance recommendations.)

A big gun applicator should NEVER be closer than 40 feet at any time of the year due to drift.

These guidelines apply to liquid and solid manures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr 1/15</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80'</td>
<td>80'</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>40'/10'</td>
<td>10'</td>
<td>10'</td>
<td>10'</td>
<td>10'</td>
<td>10'</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>80'</td>
<td>80'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This is a floating date and should be evaluated based on current weather and forecast information. Check the website for the current recommendation.

If you would like email updates on current weather alerts, manure application tips and timing, and other important information, please email us your request and we will put you on the list (nembertson@whatcomcd.org). (This list will NOT be distributed)

Cost Assistance Available

Want to install a new technology, or practice, but can’t afford it on your own?

The WA State Cost Share and NRCS EQIP programs may be able to help!

Come into the NRCS office and sign up at any time. You can talk with NRCS or WCD about what type of programs and funding support is available and see if it is right for you.

Tire Removal Opportunity

Have old tires that you want removed?

The Dept of Ecology and Dept. of Health are partnering to come and help remove those old tires from your place at no cost.

If you are interested, contact us at WCD or Bill Angel at Dept of Health (360-676-6724 ext. # 50831) by September 14th.

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Preparing for Fall

Its time to start preparing for Fall farm needs

Field work is in full swing, but there is no time like the present to also start to prepare for the coming wet season.

Fall in Whatcom County brings a shift from very dry weather to very wet weather, sometimes leading to surface runoff and/or on-farm flood events. There are a few things you can do on-farm now to prepare for this change and prevent any type of pollution event.

Make sure your lagoon banks are in intact and repair any type of damage. Prepare to divert concentrated silage leachate into your lagoon for the first two months. Make sure guts are repaired and functioning, and all roof panels in place.

Contact us at: (360) 354-2035 x 3  www.WhatcomCD.org
Whatcom Dairy Speaker Series

Meeting Information
• Meetings will be on the “Third Thursday” of the month.
• The first speaker will be Thursday, September 21, 2012 from 12:00-1:30.
• There is no charge for the event and a free lunch will be provided!
• More information on upcoming speakers and topics will be sent out via postcards or email. If your not on our mailing list, let us know and we will sign you up.
• You can also check our website under “Dairy Speaker Series” for the latest information on speakers and upcoming topics.

Topics will focus on the science, effectiveness, practicality, and economics of the issue. Here are some upcoming topics to look forward to:
• Waste Storage Structures
• Soil Quality and Management
• Crop Rotations
• Animal Production/Welfare
• Manure Application Risk Management
• Dairy Nutrition
• Cover and Relay Crops
• Forage and Pastures
• Information Technologies
• Animal Health
• Mortality Management and Composting
• Disease and Pathogens

NEW! Manure Spreading Advisory
Your first line of defense is good manure application practices

The Whatcom Conservation District has put up a new tool for farmers in Whatcom County called the Manure Spreading Advisory (MSA). Modeled off of a system developed in Wisconsin, this advisory tool can help you avoid times when manure should not be applied, and identify times when application is low risk.

The advisory is updated every morning so that you have a real-time look into current risk factors for manure application. Use the MSA as a first step in making decisions about when you should apply manure. If the risk is low or medium, move on to assessing your field conditions to see if manure application is okay for a specific field on that day. If used correctly, this tool can help you avoid any potential runoff issues and keep your manure on your field where it belongs.

Remember: if the risk is high, don’t apply! Find the MSA at: http://whatcomcd.org/manure-spreading-advisory

Start Planning Now for Fall Manure Needs

Good manure application practices will save you time and money

Whatcom County is prized for its beauty, abundance of wildlife, and productive farmlands. This is due in large part to the watersheds that feed and support us. The health of your watershed, and its viability for future generations begins with you.

Even though it feels like summer just got here, it’s time to start thinking about Fall and planning out your manure application schedule. There are a few important parameters that will help you make better manure application decisions this Fall, including coverage growth rate, soil type, rain forecast, and field conditions. By understanding these parameters you can improve nutrient utilization and yield.

Forage Growth Rate
In general, grass growth starts to decline starting in June and/or after it has headed out, soil temperatures are high (>70°F), and/or precipitation is low. We tend to get a slight bump in growth in September after the first rains, but a steady decline is observed into the winter months, at which time grass is virtually dormant (see Figure 1 below). When grass growth begins to decline, so does the nutrient uptake, meaning you need to apply less nutrients (manure) in the late summer and early fall in order to meet crop needs.

The manure nitrogen that you applied earlier in the season will continue to become available for up to three months after application. This means that if you stop application in August, you will likely have more than enough nutrients to last until spring.

Manure lagoons tend to be at their most concentrated in August due to a lack of rain through the summer to dilute it, so your application volume should be lower. Manure tests will let you know what your nutrient concentration is per gallon to help you apply at the appropriate rate.

Soil Type
There are three main soil types, Silt, Sand, Clay, and most soils are some combination of the three. Knowing your soil type can help you decide when and how to apply manure effectively.

For fields with sandy type soils, manure should be applied in the early season (Jan/Feb) with application ceasing by the beginning of September to prevent loss of nitrogen below the root zone and into groundwater. If you have fields with clay or loam soil types, you can apply manure until late October using application setbacks, after which all application activity must cease as per the County Manure Ordinance.

Pay attention to soil moisture and avoid applying to saturated soils, which will readily runoff off. If soils are compacted or prone to runoff, pay extra attention to the weather.

Weather Forecast
If your soil and manure tests indicate that manure application in the fall is appropriate, take appropriate precautions before you apply. Watching the rain forecast and the Manure Spreading Advisory will help you choose the days on which application is low risk.

**Who Provides the Best Weather Forecast??**
NOAA provides a four day precipitation prediction along with temperature, wind, humidity, and other parameters that are helpful for crop production. Find the link on our webpage under “Weather”.