

Re: MANURE SPREADING ADVISORY #5 - 2008: SOUTH COASTAL REGION

Date: October 22, 2008

The following advisory is produced by government, in partnership with industry, to provide guidance to farmers regarding the *Agricultural Waste Control Regulation* and the *ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT*. If a discrepancy arises between this document and the legislation, the legislation takes precedence. Following this advisory does not relieve anyone from their obligations under the LEGISLATION. The Province of British Columbia does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information referenced here from legislation, and in no event is the Province liable or responsible for damages of any kind arising out of its use.

In general, manure application on any crops after November 1 is not advised. Well established perennial grassland is the only crop suited to receive manure application at this time of year and the guidelines below should be followed. Note below-average temperatures are expected for the next 14 days, at the time of writing. Producers are advised to check the most recent long-term weather forecast to avoid manure application immediately prior to a significant rainfall event*.

The Manure Spreading Advisory Committee recognizes that some producers may intend to take off a final crop of grass and apply manure to those fields (weather permitting) to empty manure storage facilities before conditions become unsuitable due to seasonal precipitation. The Committee further recognizes applying manure carefully under the correct conditions on well established perennial grass will reduce the environmental risk.

Producers are responsible for decisions regarding manure spreading. Legislation allows manure to be spread as a fertilizer on unspecified dates and in a manner that does not cause pollution,

The Manure Spreading Advisory Committee (consisting of industry and government representatives) will be monitoring weather and soil conditions and will issue further advisories as considered necessary.

*As a general guideline, manure application should be avoided if greater than 10 mm of rain (or its equivalent in snow) is forecast for any day in the five-day forecast.

Perennial Grassland

Manure applied to established perennial grassland this time of year should take into consideration the following recommendations:

- Protect surface waters from runoff by maintaining adequate setbacks to watercourses: at this time of year, suggested minimum setback distance is 10 metres (33 feet), depending on a variety of factors including weather, topography, soil conditions and rate of application
- Apply manure only when soil is trafficable and there is no significant rain, i.e. greater than 10 mm of rain (or its equivalent in snow), forecast for any of the next 5 days
- Do not apply manure to areas of fields that are frozen or saturated
- Do not apply manure to areas of fields that are subject to flooding or runoff
- Apply at rates matched to crop nutrient requirements (suggested maximum rate of 60 kg/ha of manure nitrogen which is equivalent to about 2000 gal/ac with liquid dairy manure)

Harvested Annual Crops (including corn and vegetables), Recently Seeded Cover Crops and Berry Crops:

No manure application is recommended at this time.

Additional Resources:

Canada-BC Environmental Farm Plan Program:

Trained Planning Advisors are available to assist producers with completing an Environmental Farm Plan. Some of the delivery groups and their contacts for the Coastal Region are mentioned below:

- BC Milk Producers' Association <http://www.bcmilkproducers.ca/>, Dave Melnychuk, 604-534-2639
- Mainland Fruit and Vegetables EFP Delivery Group, Jyl Singh 604-807-5659
- Poultry Administration, Allen James, 604-795-7656

A complete contact list is available through the BC Agriculture Council website at the link below:
http://www.bcac.bc.ca/EFP_pages/contact_us/index.html

Agricultural Waste Control Regulation:

This is the actual legislation that applies to manure management in British Columbia.
http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/reg/E/EnvMgmt/131_92.htm

For further information, please contact BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

David Poon, AAg	604-556-3098
Orlando Schmidt, PAg	604-556-3101

For questions of a regulatory nature, please contact BC Ministry of Environment

Trevor Hamelin, AScT	604-582-5275
George Rushworth, PAg	604-582-5211