

Re: MANURE SPREADING ADVISORY #6 - 2008: SOUTH COASTAL REGION

Date: November 7, 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 not advised.

The Manure Spreading Advisory Committee recognizes that some farmers might not have adequate capacity in their manure storage facilities to hold their current levels of manure and the additional levels expected to accumulate over the winter. The Committee further recognizes that the environmental risks of applying manure carefully under appropriate conditions are likely less than the environmental risks of overflowing manure storage facilities in winter.

If producers plan to spread manure, the only suitable receiving crop is well established perennial grassland. The principal environmental risks associated with manure application at this time are:

- **surface runoff of manure nutrients and pathogens to water courses**
 - **short-circuit flow of manure nutrients and pathogens to water courses through drain tiles**
 - **soil compaction from operating heavy equipment on fields that are very wet**
- Please read the guidelines below for important information to assist producers with decision-making about manure application.**

Producers are responsible for decisions regarding manure spreading. Legislation gives no specific dates for manure spreading, but it does not allow for manure to be spread in a manner that causes 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.

Perennial Grassland

In general, manure application after November 1 is not advised. However, if it is necessary to apply manure to avoid the environmental risk of overflowing manure storage facilities, consider the following recommendations:

- Apply at rates matched to crop nutrient requirements (suggested maximum rate of 60 kg/ha of manure nitrogen which is about 2000 gal/ac of liquid dairy manure)
- Protect surface waters from runoff by maintaining adequate setbacks to watercourses: at this time of year, the 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 tile-drained fields, particularly if water is currently flowing through the drain tiles
- 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

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