December 2019

Manure Applicator Certification Preview

2020 Manure Applicator Certification begins statewide in January. The statewide Commercial Manure Applicators program is scheduled for January 8th, 2020 at 9am. Click here for a list of County Extension Offices hosting this event. Commercial applicators are required to attend 3 hours of training annually or take and pass the certification exam annually. Certification requirements must be completed prior to handling, hauling or land applying manure. This year’s commercial program includes an update about deep pit foaming in swine manure, a segment about the value of manure sampling and testing, and what to look for when evaluating manure storage structures.

Confinement Site Manure Applicators workshops have been announced as well. A complete list of workshops can be found here. Confinement site applicators are required to complete 2 hours of training. During the 2020 workshops applicators will receive an update about biosecurity practices and hydrogen sulfide safety.

Applicators who primarily haul dry/solid manure should consider attending one of the six statewide workshops in February. This program meets the training requirements for both commercial and confinement site applicators. A list of counties hosting the workshop can be found here. These workshops feature a couple activities, including siting a stockpile and a biosecurity segment identifying lines of separation.

Winter Manure Application Rule Reminder

State law prevents confinement facilities with 500 or more animal units from applying liquid manure on ground with an inch of snow or one-half inch of ice from December 21st - April 1st or on frozen ground February 1st - April 1st except in an emergency. If emergency application is necessary, producers must call the local DNR field office to report emergency applications before they apply.

While the snow and frozen ground rules do not apply to open feedlots or poultry operations, manure application during winter months presents tough management decisions. If winter application is unavoidable, be sure to follow our Top Ten List of
winter manure application considerations to ensure minimal nutrient loss and water quality impacts.

The Manure Scoop

In this month’s Manure Scoop I ask the question, what if these fall and spring weather patterns become the new normal, how should we respond? How do we develop more seasonal manure application windows or respond to the need to get more gallons applied in decreasing seasonal windows?

Events

January 2020
14 locations statewide

Crop Advantage Series

January 8, 2020
Statewide Showing Commercial Manure Applicator Certification

January 17, 2020, 1:30 pm
Managing manure beyond the farmyard: Manure management for less-typical species and settings webinar

January 22 – 23, 2020
Iowa Pork Congress

January – February
Statewide Confinement Site Manure Applicator Certification