

December 2021

2022 Manure Applicator Certification Begins in January

The statewide showing of the Commercial Manure Applicator Certification program will be held on January 6, 2022, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Preregistration is required to attend. [A list of counties hosting the event can be found here.](#) In addition to a review of land application and separation distances regulations, this year, the commercial program includes information about proper manure agitation practices, a gas monitor demonstration, and proper response to spills. Commercial manure applicators are required to attend three hours of training annually or take and pass the certification exam annually. Certification requirements must be completed prior to hauling, handling, or land applying manure.

Sixty-four confinement site manure applicator workshops will be held across Iowa in January and February. [A complete list of workshop dates, locations, and registration information can be found here.](#) Confinement site applicators are required to complete two hours of training or take and pass an exam every three years. This year's program includes mass mortality management preparedness, water management in barns, and improving soil structure and water management.

Applicators who primarily haul or apply dry/solid manure should consider attending one of the six statewide workshops focused on dry manure in February. This program meets the requirements for both commercial and confinement site applicators. [A list of counties hosting the workshops can be found here.](#) The program will include best management practices for winter manure application, an update on a research study about the long-term impacts of poultry manure application, and stockpiling and land application regulations.

Winter Manure Application Reminders

We are past the shortest day of the year, and with it, winter manure application rules have come into effect in Iowa. In 2010, the Iowa legislature passed a winter manure application on snow-covered and frozen ground rule. This law only applies to liquid manure from confinement animal feeding operations with more than 500 animal units and only limits application during specific dates (from December 21 to April 1 on snow-covered ground and from February 1 to April 1 on the frozen ground). Manure application from these facilities is permissible for the next month if there is no snow on the ground; however, some operations may have to switch from a planned injection application to surface application if the ground becomes impenetrable.

If this change is needed, please remember the following:

1. If a farm claims injection/incorporation points on the Master Matrix, it is required you inject/incorporate, or you must get permission from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources before switching to surface application.
2. If you have either a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit or a Natural Resources Conservation Service comprehensive nutrient management plan, check this document carefully to see if you have any application restrictions that may be impacted by frozen or snow-covered ground.

If you are switching manure application to surface application, you should make a few additional considerations in your nutrient application. Regarding nutrient management planning, look at updating the volatilization correction factor. Based on Table 2 found in [PMR 1003](#), a correction factor of 0.75-0.90 is recommended for not incorporated surface applied liquid manure, and a factor of 0.70-

0.85 is recommended for not incorporated surface applied solid manure. Also, check how switching to surface application will impact the field's P-Index to ensure both the new rate and application method are allowed.

Finally, review your fields for [setback distance requirements](#). With injection/incorporation, the required setback distances are often zero, but when switching to a surface application, setbacks of 750 feet from residences and public use areas, 200 feet from water sources and other designated areas, and 800 feet from high-quality water resources will be required for liquid manure.

The Manure Scoop

In this month's [Manure Scoop](#), we take a look at the carbon cycle at deep pit swine farms to gain some insight into how the use of anaerobic digestion could impact greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of livestock production. As you may have heard, this topic is receiving more and more interest as livestock production tries to reduce its carbon footprint.

Events

[Commercial Manure Applicator Certification](#)

January 6, 2022, 9 a.m., multiple locations

[Confinement Site Manure Applicator Certification workshops](#)

January and February 2022, multiple locations

[Crop Advantage Series](#)

January 2022, multiple locations

[Iowa Pork Congress](#)

January 26 – 27, 2022, Des Moines