March 2018

Save Time and Money – File Your MMP Short Form Online

March 2018, DNR will release a new application that allows the Short Form Annual Updates for Manure Management Plans (MMP) to be filed electronically. This new application will also have the ability for you to pay for compliances fees electronically through a secure banking website. Credit cards or electronic checks will be accepted. A convenience fee will be charged for credit card transactions.

You can continue to submit a paper Short Form Annual Update by the current process. Complete the form, have the county sign off, include payment, and deliver to the appropriate DNR Field Office. There are a few steps to submitting your Short Form electronically.

The first step is creating a State Login account, otherwise known as an A & A account. If you already have an account from another state application (for example, stormwater permit application or Manure Applicator Certification online videos), you can use that user name and password to access the eMMP application. You must create a user ID, password, answer some security questions, and provide a valid email address to create the account. This user ID and password will be used to log into the eMMP application.

In mid-March, the Department will be mailing out Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) letters to an owner of each facility. The PIN letters will allow you to gain access to your electronic file to be able to submit your Short Form online. If you need a new PIN contact your local Field Office to have a new PIN mailed to you. After entering the PIN number, an owner can access their file and either assign access for another person to submit the Short Form or proceed with submitting the Short Form.

To submit the Short Form, you must select the appropriate checkboxes and add any additional counties that will receive manure outside of the county the building resides in. This county is auto-populated on the form. Then you must sign and check the box in the consent area of the short form. If you have another facility to submit, click “submit and add another” otherwise click “submit and go to payment.”

On the payment page, select the facilities you would like to make payment on, then select your method of payment; credit card, electronic check, or paper check. If you choose to mail a paper check you must print and include the invoice with the check to ensure the payment is applied to the correct facility. After payment is accepted, you can print a copy of the approved Short Form and a payment receipt.

Upon the submittal being approved, emails will be sent to the appropriate counties indicating a Short Form Annual Update has been submitted. Utilizing the eMMP application, you will no longer have to drive the Short Form to counties for signatures.
If you have questions on operating the application, an archived webinar can be found on the DNR webpage or by searching for eMMP. You can also contact your local field office for assistance.

**Spring Rain and Barnyard Runoff Tips**

Spring in Iowa brings planting, calving, and wet weather. Though it may still feel like winter some mornings, spring is right around the corner and early spring rains can cause challenging conditions for manure management. This is the time of year to spend some time assessing your farmstead and take some simple steps to make sure your barnyard water management practices are operating as they should.

Take some time this month and help do your part to protect Iowa’s waters. Perform a visual inspection of your farm, paying close attention to the cow yard, feedlot, manure storage structures, manure stockpiles, and feed storage areas. This practice ensures everything is in working order and could help you identify any problem areas that could impact water quality.

To assist with your self-assessment, tools are available to help you understand what to look for while surveying your farm. A great place to start is with What to Expect When DNR Inspects, which outlines what the Iowa DNR is looking for when reviewing a facility.

To reduce nutrient movement, implement best management practices including:

- Utilize clean water diversions and gutters for roofs to prevent clean water from coming in contact with areas where it could become contaminated.
- Scrape open lots frequently to reduce what rain can move and also make sure drainage is towards control structure.
- Select flat areas away from water pools or channels to locate stockpiles and compost piles to prevent runoff.
- Keep feedstuffs dry.
- Promptly clean-up spilled manure, feed, silage, and bedding.

Wondering if your farm is impacting water quality? ISU Extension and Outreach, in partnership with the Iowa DNR, has water quality testing kits available for check out at 19 extension offices. These kits allow livestock producers to check for ammonia in streams below their feedlots and cow yards and identify the potential impacts if runoff is reaching a stream. More information can be found at the Small Feedlots and Dairy Operations webpage on the IMMAG site, including a list of counties hosting kits.

Or if you are interested in seeing what beef farms are doing to help protect water quality, check out this video by Shawn Shouse.

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**Manure Scoop**

Last month’s blog focused on considerations for variable rate manure application. In this month’s edition of The Manure Scoop, we take a look at the economics of the technology.
**Spring Manure Sampling Resources**

The weather is getting warmer, the snow in Ames is gone, and in some parts of Iowa applicators are beginning manure application. Collecting a sample for manure analysis helps to ensure you are getting the most value from the manure. While average nutrient values do exist for manure, those values can vary by 50 percent or more. The animals’ feed ration, water usage, and management, as well as other factors, can contribute to variation in manure nutrient content. This makes sampling on a regular basis an important part of your nutrient management plan and allows you to adjust your application rate as necessary.

To fully utilize the available nutrients, while protecting the environment, check out the resources listed below:

- **PM 1558 How to Sample Manure for Nutrient Analysis**
- **PM 3014 How To Interpret Your Manure Nutrient Analysis.**
- **AE 3607 Manure: A Valuable Commodity**
- **PMR 1003 Using Manure Nutrients for Crop Production**
- **PM 1941 Calibration and Uniformity of Solid Manure Spreaders**
- **PM 1948 Calibrating Liquid Tank Manure Applicators**

![Manure samples labeled and ready to be sent for analysis. Photo credit: Rachel Kennedy, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach](image)

**Soil Compaction Discussed at Dry Manure Applicator Training**

Figure 3: A portion of last month’s dry manure applicator training was spent covering the effects of soil compaction. Applicators shared not only do they care about soil compaction because of yield reductions and negative impacts to soil health, but clients expect them to reduce compaction. In order to meet client expectations, applicators are using floatation tires, waiting to apply until soil conditions are dry and fit, and using tillage in areas that were driven over multiple times. Photo credit: Melissa McEnany, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

**Upgrade to New Version of RUSLE2**

A newer version of RUSLE2 software (version 2.6.8.4) is available for FIELD USE. The instructions (PC based computers, Windows 10 Operating System) for how to save your prior work, download and install the new version, and import in your prior work are available on the [IMMAG web site](https://www.immag.iastate.edu). All service providers are required to use this version. If you have not already upgraded to this newer version, please consider installing RUSLE2 Version 2.6.8.4. Updates in this version include updates to management files with added parameters for Crop Year Results. Crop Year is defined as the period from the harvest of the last...
crop to the harvest of the current crop. This is important in determining which crop to attribute soil disturbance with and to calculate if a crop meets the 329 STIR requirements. In case you are currently not using it, please consider referring this information to your acquaintances working with RUSLE2. RUSLE2 is used in conservation planning, and for calculating and completing Iowa Phosphorus Index (P-Index). P-Index is then used in nutrient management plans, comprehensive nutrient management plans, and manure management plans.

Events

Manure Pit Foaming Webinar, March 16, 1:30 pm

Manure Expo, August 15 and 16, Brookings, South Dakota