

Re: Manure Spreading Advisory #4 for 2016: South Coast Region

Date: November 7, 2016

In general, manure application on any crops is not advised until further notice. See below for advice on avoiding overflowing manure pits.

- **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.**
- **Please read the entire advisory for details and important information to assist producers with decision-making about manure application.**

The Manure Spreading Advisory Committee (consisting of industry and government representatives) is advising **against manure applications** due to lower air temperatures, the increased potential of significant rain events, and lack of vegetative cover and/or reduced nutrient uptake of cover crops. The committee will monitor weather and soil conditions and will issue further advisories as conditions change.

Principal environmental risks associated with manure application

- 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

This 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.

For further information, please contact BC Ministry of Agriculture:	For questions of a regulatory nature, please contact the BC Ministry of Environment:
Jeff Nimmo, P.Ag. 604-556-3109	To report a spill 1-800-663-3456
David Poon, P.Ag. 604-556-3098	To report pollution 1-877-952-7277

Additional Information

Manure Storage

- Winter manure applications are not recommended. It is essential to have enough manure storage to include the average expected precipitation plus account for unforeseen circumstances such as excessive precipitation.
- Develop a contingency plan to outline an effective response in case of an emergency. The plan should include identification of abandoned pits and other storage facilities, contact information for vacuum trucks or commercial operators, and easy access to the provincial spill reporting hotline: 1-800-663-3456.

Harvested Annual Crops (including corn and vegetables)

- Manure applications are not recommended.

Berry crops

- Manure applications are not recommended.

Perennial Grassland

- Winter manure applications are not recommended. All measures must be taken to address the chance of overflowing manure storage (see Manure Storage above). If manure storage is not adequate and overflowing might occur please contact one of the BC Ministry of Agriculture staff on the first page.

Additional Resources

- *Agricultural Waste Control Regulation*
This is the actual legislation that applies to manure management in British Columbia.
http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/10_131_92
- Canada-BC Environmental Farm Plan Program
Trained Planning Advisors are available to assist producers with an Environmental Farm Plan. For more information contact the ARDCorp office in Abbotsford. The BC Environmental Farm Plan Reference Guide provides valuable information related to farm management practices that enhance environmental values

toll free 1-866-522-3447 or 604-854-4483

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/growing-forward-2/environmental-farm-plan>