



Nutrient Management Fact Sheet: Iowa

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Nutrient Management Plans

Topic	Summary
Coverage	<p>Dairy Operations (open feedlots) with 700 mature dairy cattle or more must have a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).</p> <p>Manure Management Plans (MMP) are required for confined feeding operations (totally roofed) that have more than 500 animal units (700 mature dairy cattle) or are constructing a manure storage structure with a capacity of more than 500 animal units.^{1 2}</p> <p>Producers that have combined facilities can find information on Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requirements here.</p> <p>Dairy CAFOs are required to have Nutrient Management Plans under NPDES permits.</p>
Content	<p>Manure Management Plan³</p> <p>An MMP form can be found here. Information on the requirements of MMPs can be found on page 10 of the MMP form appendix here. MMPs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restrictions on the application of manure based on the phosphorus index and land area. - Manure nutrient levels. - Manure application methods, timing and location. - Estimate of annual animal production, manure volume or weight. - Methods, structures or practices to prevent soil loss and potential surface water pollution. - Methods or practices to minimize odors. - Description of land for the application of liquid manure due to an emergency. <p>Nutrient Management Plan⁴</p> <p>An Iowa DNR nutrient management plan form can be found here. NMPs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restrictions on land application based on calculations for the land area required for the application based on nitrogen use levels and the phosphorus index. - Information on applications, including methods, timing and location. - Written agreement for land application on rented land. - Estimate of the effluent volume or weight produced. - Information on storage.
Frequency of Updates	Annual updates are submitted for both NMPs and MMPs.



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Paperwork	Producers with NMPs must publish a public notice in a newspaper in the county/counties where the feedlot is located and where manure, processed wastewater or open feedlot effluent will be land-applied. The notice must include where the NMP can be reviewed. ⁵
Planner Qualifications	The NMP and MMP plan forms do not reference professional qualifications or certifications for the individual completing the form.

Manure Storage and Application

Topic	Summary
Overview	Iowa DNR regulations are specific to the type of feedlot – open or confined and size of the operation. A small open lot dairy guide to regulatory requirements and management practices from ISU Extension can be found here .
Storage	<p>Facility Siting/Setback</p> <p>Iowa requires setback distances for new or expanding animal feeding operations based on size and type of structure. Information can be found here, and additional information on high-quality water and high-quality resource waters that require additional siting considerations can be found here.</p> <p>An Iowa DNR factsheet on stockpiling, including separation distances, can be found here.</p> <p>Structure</p> <p>Construction requirements for permitted, non-permitted and small confinements can be found here.</p> <p>An Iowa DNR open feedlot construction permit manual can be found here.</p>
Application	<p>Spreading</p> <p>Iowa DNR created a detailed fact sheet for separation distances for land application of manure from open feedlots and confinement feeding operations. There are different requirements for incorporated and “not incorporated” manure application.</p> <p>In a confinement facility with more than 500 animal units, operators must have a state certification or hire a commercial manure applicator. Additional information on manure application can be found here.</p> <p>An Iowa DNR information sheet on winter application of manure can be found here.</p> <p>Incorporation</p>



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Land application setbacks can be reduced if manure is incorporated within 24 hours. Information on the requirements can be found in the Iowa DNR [fact sheet](#).

Testing

Soil testing must be performed by a lab enrolled in the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship [soil testing certification program](#).

Technical Assistance

Topic	Summary
Software Tools	<p>Iowa NRCS highlights the following software tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iowa Phosphorus Index Calculator. - Manure Management Planner (MMP). - Animal Waste Management Software (AWM Version 2.4). <p>Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The AFO Siting Atlas helps livestock producers who are planning a new animal feeding operation or modification of an existing operation. - The Electronic Manure Management Plan System allows users to submit an MMP annual short-form update and pay for a short- or long-form.
Guides / Handbooks	<p>Iowa Farm Bureau provides the following Farm Regulations Assistance to Iowa livestock farmers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iowa Farm*A*Syst units on Confinement Livestock and Open Feedlot Manure Management and Fertilizer Storage and Management. <p>Iowa DNR provides a sign-up for producers interested in AFO updates.</p> <p>Iowa NRCS provides the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nutrient Management materials, including the state's 590 nutrient management standard. - Manure Management materials, including Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) 102 and 104 information. <p>Through Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach's Iowa Manure Management Action Group (IMMAG), producers can access a list of Manure Nutrient Management materials for small feedlots and dairy operations.</p>
Classes / Trainings	<p>Iowa DNR provides Manure Applicator Certification Training here.</p>
Tailored Expert Assistance	<p>ISU keeps lists of Manure Management Planners and Engineering Consultants for producers needing nutrient and manure management planning services.</p>



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Iowa DNR contributes a list of [Animal Feeding Operations Contacts](#) that can assist with many manure management and NPDES Permit questions.

Financial Assistance

Summary

Iowa NRCS provides assistance through:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program ([EQIP](#))- offers financial cost-share assistance to farmers for the adoption of conservation practices and development of nutrient management plans.
- Conservation Stewardship Program ([CSP](#)), which gives producers financial assistance to implement new conservation management practices and enhancements.

¹ [Confinements \(iowadnr.gov\)](#)

² [459.312.pdf \(iowa.gov\)](#)

³ [459.312.pdf \(iowa.gov\)](#)

⁴ [459A.208.pdf \(iowa.gov\)](#)

⁵ [Nutrient Management \(iowadnr.gov\)](#)