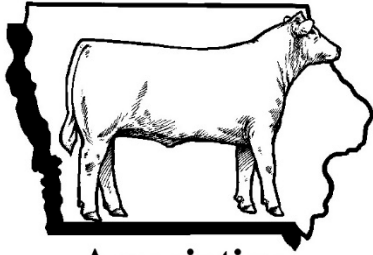


Iowa Cattlemen's



Association

Reporting a Manure Discharge

ICA Fact Sheet

July 2014

Manure spills are often costly for livestock producers and can be detrimental to the environment. Manure spills can occur at the animal feeding site, or during transportation of the manure. According to Iowa law, any manure release should be reported to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Knowing how to properly handle a manure discharge due to a chronic wet period can keep your operation in compliance with the IDNR and protect environmental quality.

Defining a Discharge

Iowa DNR requirements for open feedlots under 1,000 head are similar to that of medium CAFOs. A medium CAFO is an operation that discharges to a man-made conveyance, such as a road ditch, or has a water of the US running through the feedlot. Discharging from a confinement operation in Iowa is illegal, however open feedlot are allowed to have effluent leave the operation if the following requirements are met:

1. Settle all solids before effluent reaches a water of the state; and
2. For all Iowa surface waters, comply with the following requirements:
 - a. Waters shall be free from floating debris, oil, grease, scum and other floating materials attributable to wastewater discharges or agricultural practices in amounts sufficient to create a nuisance.
 - b. Waters shall be free from materials attributable to wastewater discharges or agricultural practices. Indicators include objectionable color, odor or other aesthetically objectionable conditions.
 - c. Waters shall be free from substances attributable to wastewater discharges or agricultural practices in concentrations or combinations which are acutely toxic to human, animal, or plant life.
 - d. Waters shall be free from substances, attributable to wastewater discharges or agricultural practices, in quantities which would produce undesirable or nuisance aquatic life.

If the DNR can't document color, odor or "other aesthetically objectionable conditions" in the surface water, then there is no violation for discharging "dirty water" from a feed yard under 1,000 head.

Assess the Scope

There are several questions to ask when determining the severity of a discharge or potential for one to occur. Assessing the following points will aid in preventing the spill from having damaging effects:

- When did the spill occur?
- How did the spill occur?
- In what direction did the discharge flow?
- Did the discharge have an opportunity to reach a waterway or stream?
- What is the average flow of the discharge or total volume?

Prevent Movement – The 4 C's

Control – Stopping the source of the discharge should be the first step in your response. Adding soil to the berm walls, adding transfer pipes, stopping additional water flow, etc. If an engineer developed your manure holding structure, contact them for assistance.

Contain – If at all possible, prevent the discharge from reaching a waterway or stream by building trenches, dams, covering tile inlets, and pumping the discharge to another location.

Call – Contact the IDNR through their 24Hr Emergency Response Spill Reporting Hotline at 515.281.8694. Report the spill to the local sheriff if public safety is a concern.

Close – When possible utilize proper application rates to empty lagoons and maximize storage capacity. Also assess containment structure integrity.

Reporting as a Permitted Operation

- To stay in compliance with NPDES permit regulations, all livestock waste discharges must be reported to the IDNR at the regional level.
 - *The true value to having an NPDES permit is the allowance of a discharge during excessive rainfall.*
- The Livestock Waste Discharge Notification (Form 9) can be found on IMMAG's website at: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/ppr.html>.
 - Offers specific details of the spill.
 - Should be included in facility records.
- Contact the IDNR prior to the spill, if not shortly after it occurs at **515-281-8694**. *The sooner the better!*

After the Spill

Document the size and length of the manure spill, and make plans to visit with an engineer or TSP to arrange and develop prevention plans for future spills. The NRCS is charged to allocate over 60% of EQIP dollars towards livestock operations, so the Cattlemen's Association strongly encourages you to check with your local NRCS office for funding opportunities.