

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Iowa Cattlemen's Association has prepared a flowchart to help producers understand what steps they can take to best protect Iowa's waterways. In addition, pro-active measures are intended to help producers comply with the requirements of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

ACTION STEPS

What to do before IDNR comes to your feedlot for an assessment and inspection (Do Now!)

- During and after an intense rainfall event, observe any runoff path from your feedlot.
- Follow this path until
 - (a) it disappears into the soil as infiltrated liquid, or
 - (b) it discharges into a temporary ponding area where it eventually soaks into the ground, or
 - (c) it discharges into a water body such as a stream that has banks and a narrow but defined stream bed with no vegetation, a surface intake on a tile line, a protected wetland which is classified as a water of the state.
- If there is any evidence of discharge into a water of the state as per (c) above, you should plan to take steps to eliminate this problem prior to your visit from IDNR since you may be able to prevent them from declaring your feedlot as a CAFO. If that happens, you will need to obtain a NPDES permit.
- IDNR may allow you the alternative to correct your problem after a future visit, but if they find sufficient evidence of major pollution problems, they have the authority to require you to obtain a federal NPDES permit in order to continue operation after a certain date.

What to do after your self-investigation

- If there is no evidence of runoff entering water bodies through a man-made conveyance after rain event, or there is no evidence of any manure solids near or in the stream continue to follow best management practices (BMPs) to minimize any impact of your feedlot on the water body below
- If not sure, call ICA for further advice.

