

# 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!)

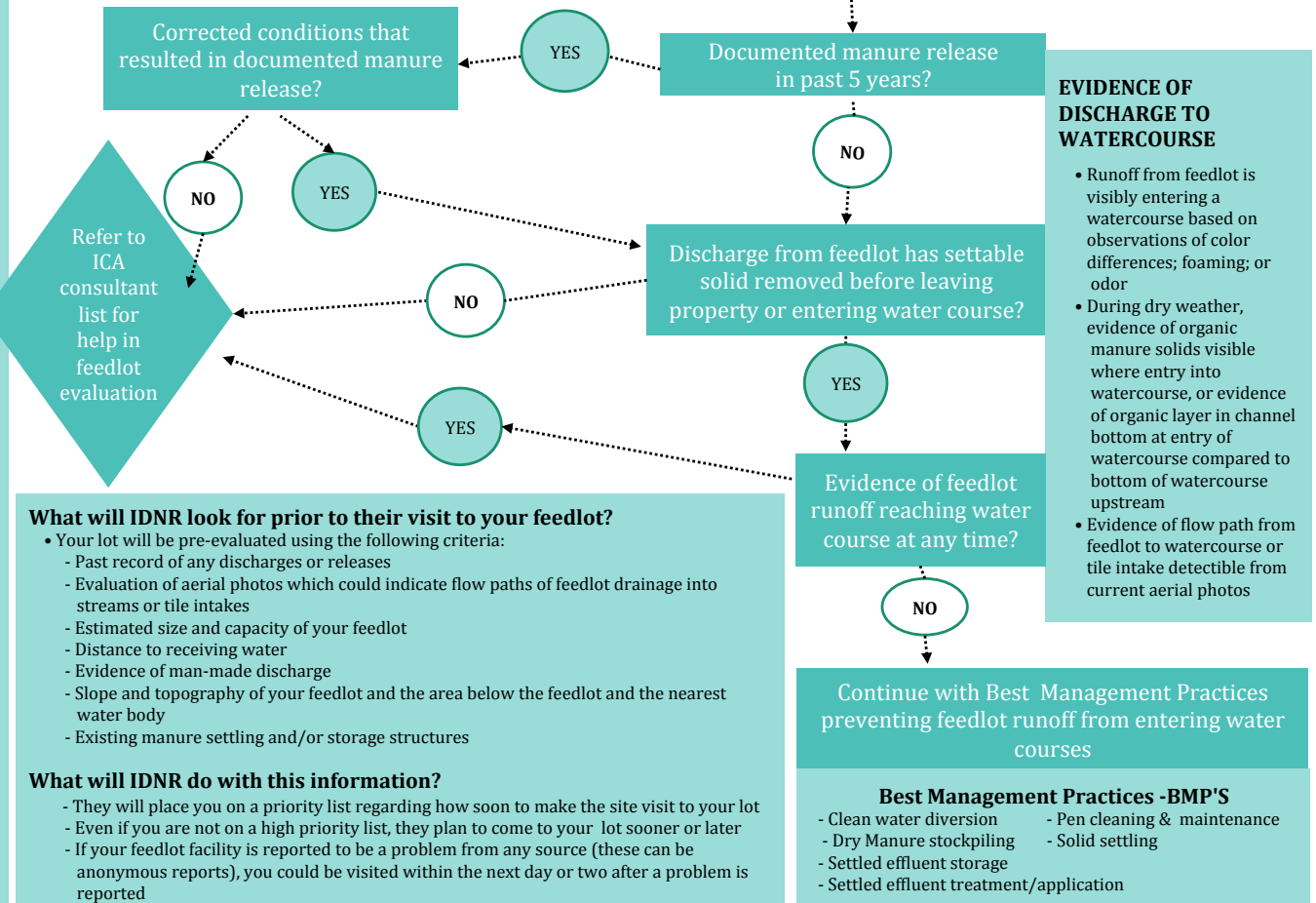
- During and after an intense rainfall event, observe any runoff path from your feedlot.
- Follow this path until
  - (a) it disappears into the soil as infiltrated liquid, or
  - (b) it discharges into a temporary ponding area where it eventually soaks into the ground, or
  - (c) it discharges into or through a man-made device such as a road ditch or a road culvert or a constructed non-vegetated ditch which leads to a water of the state as described in (d), or
  - (d) 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) or (d) 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.

## Rainfall Event - 300-999 head open feedlots

Under Iowa law, a feedlot of this size must remove all settleable solids before any runoff reaches a water of the state and any runoff that reaches a water of the state cannot violate a state water quality standard. If the feedlot discharges runoff to a water of the U.S. via a man-made conveyance, the feedlot must contain that runoff or obtain an NPDES permit meeting Iowa and federal law requirements for medium CAFOs. If the feedlot is found by DNR to be a significant contributor of runoff to a water of the U.S., the feedlot could be designated as a CAFO by DNR according to a list of factors in DNR rules and be required to obtain an NPDES permit.



### EVIDENCE OF DISCHARGE TO WATERCOURSE

- Runoff from feedlot is visibly entering a watercourse based on observations of color differences; foaming; or odor
- During dry weather, evidence of organic manure solids visible where entry into watercourse, or evidence of organic layer in channel bottom at entry of watercourse compared to bottom of watercourse upstream
- Evidence of flow path from feedlot to watercourse or tile intake detectible from current aerial photos

### What will IDNR look for prior to their visit to your feedlot?

- Your lot will be pre-evaluated using the following criteria:
  - Past record of any discharges or releases
  - Evaluation of aerial photos which could indicate flow paths of feedlot drainage into streams or tile intakes
  - Estimated size and capacity of your feedlot
  - Distance to receiving water
  - Evidence of man-made discharge
  - Slope and topography of your feedlot and the area below the feedlot and the nearest water body
  - Existing manure settling and/or storage structures

### What will IDNR do with this information?

- They will place you on a priority list regarding how soon to make the site visit to your lot
- Even if you are not on a high priority list, they plan to come to your lot sooner or later
- If your feedlot facility is reported to be a problem from any source (these can be anonymous reports), you could be visited within the next day or two after a problem is reported

### Best Management Practices -BMP'S

- Clean water diversion
- Dry Manure stockpiling
- Settled effluent storage
- Settled effluent treatment/application
- Pen cleaning & maintenance
- Solid settling