

New Law for Stockpiling Poultry Manure

Governor Culver signed into law House File 735, which establishes new regulations for stockpiling dry poultry manure from confinement feeding operations. Currently, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a guidance document that producers must follow, but does not have specific rules.

Many livestock producers have adopted the practice of stockpiling dry manure from confinement feeding operations on land near the confinement facility or in crop fields. Generally, the manure is stockpiled until crop fields are ready for land application.

The new regulations, which became effective on April 2, do not apply if the stockpile's manure originates from a confinement feeding operation that was constructed prior to January 1, 2006, unless the confinement feeding operation is expanded after that date. However, this exception does not apply to a producer who violates manure retention laws or where precipitation-induced runoff has drained away.

The new law provides separation distances where stockpiles can be located, and producers stockpiling dry manure must comply with applicable requirements of the national

pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) pursuant to the federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The law also differentiates between stockpiling on karst terrain and other soils. Karst terrain is generally the limestone rock land in northeastern Iowa, which provides direct conduits to our groundwater. Under the new law, a producer stockpiling dry manure on karst terrain must stockpile the manure at least five feet between the bottom of the stockpile and the underlying limestone, dolomite, or other soluble rock.

Dry Manure Stockpiles Cannot Be Located:

- 1,250 feet from residences, schools, businesses, churches, and public use areas.
- 200 feet of a terrace tile inlet or surface tile inlet.
- 400 feet from a cistern, abandoned well, ag drainage well surface inlet, drinking water well, designated wetland, or a water source.
- 800 feet from a high-quality water resource, ag drainage well, or known sinkhole.
- In a grassed waterway.
- On land having a slope of more than 3%.