

Report on Winter Manure Application

Members of the House Agriculture Committee were updated by the Department of Natural Resources regarding emergency manure application this winter. By February 9, 2010, the department received 43 requests from producers for emergency surface application of manure on frozen or snow-covered ground. All 43 requests were granted.

The department reported that as inquiries came into their field offices, DNR staff and producers discussed the options for land application, the requirements for fields eligible for emergency surface application, and the risks of surface runoff and water pollution when applying during late winter to frozen or snow-covered ground. DNR said their staff helped producers sort through and identify the least risky areas to surface apply manure.

Region of State	Number of Requests
Northeast	7
North central	5
Northwest	11
Southwest	8
South central	9
Southeast	3
Total	43

In 2009, the Legislature passed legislation that prohibited confinements large enough to require a manure management plan (more than 500 animal units) from surface applying manure, if the manure cannot be injected or incorporated, from December 21 to April 1 on snow-covered ground, and February 1 to April 1 if the ground is frozen. Application is allowed on an emergency basis.

There are approximately 5,500 confinement feeding operations in the state that are required to have manure management plans.