

Wisconsin's Runoff Rules: What Manitowoc County Farmers Need to Know

Agricultural Standards & Prohibitions

For farmers who grow agricultural crops

- Meet tolerable soil loss ("T") on cropped fields.
- Follow a nutrient management plan designed to limit entry of nutrients into state waters (groundwater and surface water)

(Note: Nutrient management plans must be in place by Oct. 1, 2003 for new croplands; Jan. 1, 2005 for high priority waters (e.g., impaired, exceptional/outstanding resource waters, source water protection areas) and Jan.1, 2008 for all others.

For farmers who raise, feed or house livestock

- Prevent direct runoff from barnyards, feedlots or stored manure into state waters.
- Limit livestock access to state waters to avoid high concentrations of animals and maintain adequate or self-sustaining sod cover along waterways.
- Follow a nutrient management plan for manure application.

For farmers who have, or plan to build, a manure storage structure

- Maintain structures to prevent overflow.
- Repair or upgrade any failing or leaking structures that pose an imminent health threat or that violate groundwater standards.
- Close abandoned structures according to accepted standards.

- Meet technical standards for newly constructed or substantially altered structures.

For farmers with land in a Water Quality Management Area

(300 feet from a stream, 1,000 feet from a lake, or in areas susceptible to groundwater contamination)

- Do not stack manure in unconfined piles.
- Divert clean water away from feedlots, manure storage areas, and barnyards located within this area.

Nutrient Management Plans

To meet the new nutrient management standards, farmers may hire an agronomist or prepare their own nutrient management plans if they complete a DATCP-approved training course or otherwise demonstrate that they are qualified. These plans must:

- Rely on soil nutrient tests from a DATCP-certified laboratory.
- Comply with current NRCS Nutrient Management Standard 590.
- Follow the recommendations for nutrient applications in the Soil Test Recommendations for Field, Vegetable and Fruit Crops, UWEX publication A2809, unless there are circumstances that justify more than the recommended application.

RULE IMPLEMENTATION: The Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Dept. has the primary responsibility for implementing the new agricultural runoff standards. Call 920/683-4183 for more info.