
Re: MANURE SPREADING ADVISORY #5 - 2006: SOUTH COASTAL REGION

Date: October 27, 2006

The following advisory is produced by government, in partnership with industry, to provide guidance to farmers regarding the *Agricultural Waste Control Regulation* and the *ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT*. If a discrepancy arises between this document and the legislation, the legislation takes precedence. Following this advisory does not relieve anyone from their obligations under the LEGISLATION. The Province of British Columbia does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information referenced here from legislation, and in no event is the Province liable or responsible for damages of any kind arising out of its use.

In general, manure application on any crops after November 1 is not advised.

The “Manure Spreading Advisory Committee” recognizes that some producers are intending to take off a final crop of grass and apply manure once more on those fields. The committee also recognizes producer interest in emptying manure storage facilities before conditions become unsuitable due to seasonal precipitation. The committee further recognizes the environmental risk from manure being carefully applied under the correct conditions on perennial grassland in late October or early November is less than the risk of overflowing manure storage facilities in mid-winter.

Producers are responsible for decisions regarding manure spreading. Legislation does not give specific dates for manure spreading, but allows for the use of manure as a fertilizer, and does not allow for manure to be spread in a manner that causes pollution.

The following page contains some guidelines for specific crop groups. The “Manure Spreading Advisory Committee” (consisting of industry and government representatives) will be monitoring weather and soil conditions and will issue further advisories as considered necessary.

Perennial Grassland

In general, manure application after November 1 is not advised. However, if manure is to be applied, consider the following recommendations:

- Protect surface waters from runoff by maintaining adequate setbacks to watercourses: at this time of year, suggested minimum setback distance is 10 metres (33 feet), depending on a variety of factors including weather, topography, soil conditions and rate of application
- Only apply manure when soil is trafficable and there is no significant rain forecast for the next 5 days
- Do not apply manure to areas of fields that are frozen or saturated
- Do not apply manure to areas of fields that are subject to flooding or runoff
- Apply at rates matched to crop nutrient requirements (suggested maximum rate of 60 kg/ha of manure nitrogen which is equivalent to about 2000 gal/ac with liquid dairy manure)

Harvested Annual Crops (including corn and vegetables), Recently Seeded Cover Crops and Berry Crops:

No manure application is recommended at this time.

Additional Resources:

Canada-BC Environmental Farm Plan Program:

Trained Planning Advisors are available to assist producers with completing an Environmental Farm Plan. Some of the delivery groups and their contacts for the Coastal Region are mentioned below:

- [BC Milk Producers' Association](#), Dave Melnychuk, 604-534-2639
- BC Pork Producers, Jack Reams, 604-858-1715
- Berry Group, Mike Wallis, 604-854-8010
- BC Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, Henry Wiens, 604-864-0565, 1-800-366-8066
- Poultry Administration, Allen James, 604-795-7656

A complete contact list is available through the BC Agriculture Council website at the link below:
http://www.bcac.bc.ca/efp_programs.htm

Agricultural Waste Control Regulation:

This is the actual legislation that applies to manure management in British Columbia.
http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/reg/E/EnvMgmt/131_92.htm

For further information, please contact:

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Orlando Schmidt, PAg 604-556-3101
Geoff Hughes-Games, PAg 604-556-3102

For questions of a regulatory nature, please contact:

BC Ministry of Environment
George Rushworth, PAg 604-582-5308