

Agri-Environment Bulletin

January/February 2013

A newsletter from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

New Manure Rules for 2013

1) Ban on Winter Application of Manure

Manitoba livestock operations that are 300 animal units or more are not allowed to apply manure in winter. Livestock operations with less than 300 animal units that existed before March 2004 have until November 10, 2013 to comply. At this time, all livestock operations, regardless of size or species of animals, will be prohibited from applying manure in the winter.

Winter is defined as November 10 of one year until April 10 of the next. Manure means livestock feces and urine, and water contaminated with feces or urine and may contain other materials such as wasted feed, bedding, milkhouse wash water or soil.

2) Phosphorus Thresholds

Livestock operations must also comply with regulatory phosphorus (P) thresholds. Operations located within the Rural Municipalities of Hanover or La Broquerie and those operations outside of these Rural Municipalities that submitted a plan requesting an extension to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship in 2008 have until November 10, 2013 to comply.

Soil Test P Threshold (Olsen P)	Manure P ₂ O ₅ Application
0-59 ppm	Manure can be applied based on N requirements of the crop
60-119 ppm	No more than 2x crop removal of P ₂ O ₅ can be applied *
120-179 ppm	No more than 1x removal of P ₂ O ₅ can be applied *
Over 180 ppm	No manure application without written consent from the Director

* A one-time application of up to five years worth of P (5x crop removal of P₂O₅) can be applied provided the field receives no additional P for the following four years or until soil test P levels return to the levels immediately before the manure application and the annual manure application rate does not exceed the annual N requirement of the crop.

3) Manure Applicators

In 2007, the Manure Regulation under *The Pesticides and Fertilizers Control Act*, was passed requiring commercial and off-farm manure applicators to be trained and licensed. A commercial manure applicator is a person who transports or applies manure to land for a fee. An off-farm manure applicator is a producer with more than 300 animal units who transports or applies manure to land he does not own, lease or control.

The regulation has been amended to allow a business to hold a manure applicator's licence. To get a licence, a business must employ someone who has completed the manure applicator's training course offered by Assiniboine Community College (ACC). For information on the training course, go to: <http://public.assiniboine.net/Programs/CommercialManureApplicator.aspx>.

All staff involved in manure application who do not have the ACC training must receive job specific, in-house training that is consistent with the ACC training material. Records demonstrating this training must be kept.

Manure licence fees for the 2013 licence year are \$100. For information on licencing, go to: www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/crops/cropproduction/fac24s04.html.

What agri-environmental news is important to you?
Email dana.hill@gov.mb.ca with your ideas and suggestions for future articles.

2012 Fall Soil Moisture Survey

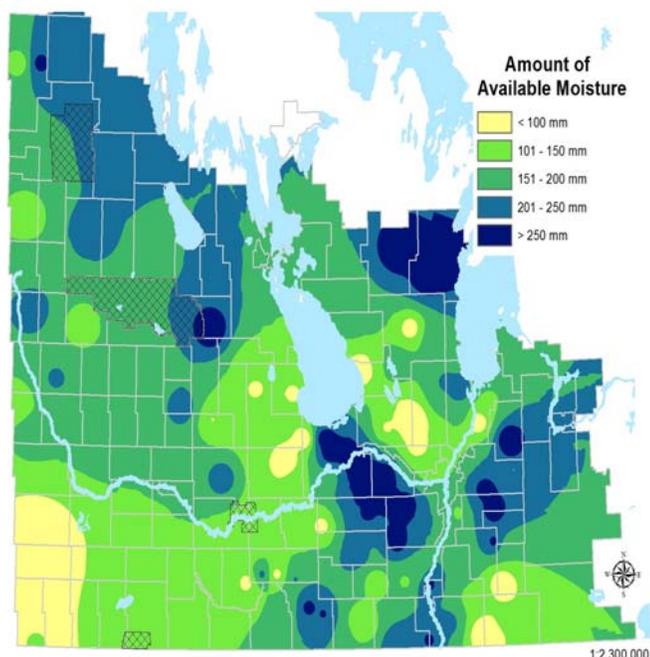
Soil moisture surveys were done across the agricultural areas of Manitoba during the last week of October 2012. Fall soil moisture levels can help with decisions such as crop selection, determining potential yield and estimating fertilizer requirements. The amount of moisture within the root zone just before freeze-up is a good indication of what to expect in the spring. With snow cover and freezing temperatures, soil moisture content remains relatively stable throughout the winter. This is especially true in frozen moist soils because pores become sealed off from further water infiltration.

The survey shows that fall soil moisture values vary widely across the province. Until the rain in October, southern Manitoba was quite dry, only 50 to 80 per cent of normal rainfall during the growing season. The late season rain helped recharge soil moisture before freeze-up. However, some areas will still need a lot of rain next season to support crop growth.

For details on the 2012 Fall Soil Moisture Survey, contact marla.riekman@gov.mb.ca. For survey maps go to: www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/news/climate/waa07s00

Soil Moisture Survey - Fall 2012

Available Moisture in the Root Zone (0-120cm depth)



Composting 101

If you have questions about composting, MAFRI is offering a one day composting course. It provides the basics of composting manure, mortalities and leaf and yard waste.

Topics include:

- **The basic principles and science of composting:** What is composting? What do I need to get started? What can I do with the end product?
- **Feedstock and material handling:** What can I compost with? How do I process materials? How do I create compost recipes?
- **Compost equipment and technologies:** What tools are available for composting?
- **Regulations:** Where do I put my compost operation? What are the guidelines and regulations for composting in Manitoba?
- **Managing and troubleshooting:** How do I prepare and monitor my compost piles? What do I do when something goes wrong with my piles?

Space is limited. Participants must preregister by January 11, 2013. The workshop is \$20 for members of the Manitoba Compost Association Corporation, Compo-Stages, Manitoba Services Co-op, Compost Council of Canada and students. The cost is \$30 for non-members.

To register, contact Van.Doan@gov.mb.ca or call 204-792-0740.

Important Dates

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| January 15-17 | Ag Days |
| January 22-24 | Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference |
| January 23 | Compost 101 (open to everyone) |
| January 24 | Compost 101 (Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship staff only) |
| February 12 & 13 | Manure Management Planner Course |