



State Conservation Commission Flood Response and Recovery Manure Related FAQ's

What should I do if my manure storage is over-flowing?

- Construct temporary dikes or barriers (using soil, straw/hay bales, bedding, dry manure or some other readily available material) to contain or divert off direct flow of the overtopping manure from entering streams, or channels that lead directly to a stream. This action should be implemented to allow the manure to dissipate in a down slope field or be temporarily stored in the temporary retention area for application as conditions permit.
- As practical, eliminate all clean water inputs into the storage by up slope dikes and diversions.
- As practical, stop manure and manure contaminated water inputs into the manure storage from the barn or barnyard, and remove that material prior to entering the storage for immediate application to nearby, accessible fields.
- Inspect the manure storage to ensure that overtopping manure is not eroding the sides of the storage to ensure that the integrity of the structure is not being negatively impacted.
- If erosion or undercutting of the manure storage is occurring and overtopping cannot be stopped by removing inputs to the structure, safely pump manure from the structure to temporary holding areas or nearby fields where the manure can dissipate over the field. If manure is reaching a stream or other water body, do all the above actions to minimize this runoff and notify your regional DEP office and the county conservation district.

What should I do when my manure storage has risen into the freeboard area?

(Freeboard is defined as 6" of space not used for manure storage for above ground structures such as concrete or steel storage facilities; or 1 foot of space for earthen manure storage facilities.)

- As practical, eliminate all clean water inputs into the storage by up slope dikes and diversions. As practical, stop manure and manure contaminated water inputs into the manure storage from the barn or barnyard, and remove that material prior to entering the storage for immediate application to nearby, accessible fields.
- Remove manure from the facility to temporary holding areas on your or neighboring farms, or apply manure to accessible fields where runoff to water bodies can be minimized.

What should I do after a manure storage overflow has been corrected on my farm and the manure height has been reduced to below the required freeboard level?

- Inspect the manure storage for signs of erosion, undercutting, cracking or other possible structural integrity concerns with the facility.
- If problems are observed, immediately contact a qualified engineer to assess the issues and develop a corrective action plan to address the problems and take immediate temporary corrective actions to address these issues.
- Take down slope precautions to ensure manure would not reach a water body if failure were to occur.
- Inspect manure and other-material handling areas, such as animal facilities, under-structures, and feed, fertilizer or pesticide storage areas.
- Document the actions taken, which can be included in an emergency nutrient management plan update and also for future planning and actions.

What should I do if my manure storage is full and it is necessary to empty the manure storage immediately, but my nutrient management plan does not allow for application at this time or on the current crops?

- Contact your nutrient management planner to discuss where the most appropriate contingency applications areas on your or your neighboring farms would be, as well as appropriate application rates.
- Apply your manure to these fields consistent with the direction provided by your nutrient management planner.
- Alert your conservation district that you need to take emergency actions to draw down your manure storage, and ensure your planner submits plan updates to the conservation district within 30 days of you having to take these alternative, emergency actions.

What should I do to address the need to apply manure to fields that are saturated with flood waters?

- Apply to upslope fields furthest from streams and other water bodies or runoff ditches which are accessible, this may limit you to hay or pasture fields.
- If you have an approved nutrient management plan and the fields you will be applying to are not scheduled for application of manure, or if application rates need to be in excess of planned rates in order to address the volume of manure that needs to be removed from a full storage contact your nutrient planner to obtain their direction on this application.
- Alert your conservation district that you need to take emergency actions to draw down your manure storage, and ensure your planner submits plan updates to the conservation district within 30 days of you having to take these alternative, emergency actions.