

MARATHON COUNTY ANIMAL WASTE AND CROPLAND MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE



All actions and requirements listed below will only go into effect if/when the Animal Waste Management Ordinance amendments are adopted

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) -Winter Spreading License-

Q Who would be required to have a winter spreading license?

A

- Farmers who land apply *liquid* animal waste on frozen or snow-covered soil and do not currently have a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) will need to either create a NMP or apply for a winter spreading license. **Farmers who already have and follow their NMP will be exempt from needing a license.**

Q How long is a winter spreading license good for, and how much does it cost?

A

- There will be options to purchase a one-year or four-year license through the Marathon County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ) Department. The cost is yet to be determined by the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee (ERC).

Q What is included with a winter spreading license?

A

- A set of farm-specific field maps delineating fields with the least risk for winter runoff, along with any restriction areas in the fields (near wells, streams, etc).

Q What annual requirements come with a winter spreading license?

A

- All information required for the issuance of a winter spreading license must be submitted annually to CPZ by October 31.
 - See a copy of the draft Animal Waste and Cropland Management Ordinance for more specific requirements and details.
- If additional cropland is added to a winter spreading license after initial issuance, submit this information **before** any liquid animal waste applications occur.
- While not required, it is “best practice” to keep a spreading log tracking amounts of animal waste spread, and on which fields.

Q What will CPZ provide in your winter spreading license?

A

- CPZ staff will use mapping software to create a detailed set of maps, along with guidance and direction on application rates.

Q

What is the difference between solid and liquid manure (for the purposes of winter applications?)

A

- o Liquid manure is defined as animal waste with a solids content of less than 12% and is generally able to be pumped. There is also semi-solid manure which may not be stackable or not able to be pumped. Generally, solid manure can hold its shape when stacked (and not frozen).

Q

How does a farm get a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP), and what is the cost?

A

- o Over 60% of Marathon County croplands are already covered by an NMP. Some farmers hire private agronomists to write a NMP, and some write their own NMP, either through Marathon County sponsored classes or other pathways.
- o **Marathon County CPZ will always offer a free option for farmers to learn how to write their own NMP.** NMP Writing Classes are offered at a variety of locations around Marathon County and surrounding counties. CPZ staff help teach the classes and can provide assistance to farmers individually, as needed. 27% of the NMPs submitted to Marathon County are farmer-written plans.
- o Marathon County has grant funding available to provide tuition reimbursement for the NMP class. Participants receive up to \$750 in soil testing reimbursements.
- o Oftentimes, cost-sharing is available to farmers who are creating a first-time NMP. Connect with Marathon County CPZ or USDA-NRCS to learn more.

Q

How is it determined if the ground is “frozen or snow covered,” where an NMP or winter spreading license is required to spread liquid manure?

A

- o The Animal Waste and Cropland Management Ordinance defines these scenarios so that there is clarity for farmers. “Frozen ground” is defined in the ordinance as “Soil that is frozen anywhere between the first one-half inch and eight inches of soil as measured from the ground surface.” “Snow-covered ground” is defined as “snow is present at depth of one inch of snow or greater.” CPZ staff have followed State (DNR) definitions and processes for frozen and snow-covered soils.

Q

How long do farms have to come into compliance with the new requirement?

A

- o While the implementation date has yet to be determined by ERC, it has been suggested by the Marathon County Animal Waste Ordinance Workgroup that there is a delayed implementation date of **January 1, 2028, for winter spreading licenses.**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VIEW THE ENTIRE ORDINANCE WITH THE DRAFTED CHANGES, VISIT THE MARATHON COUNTY WEBSITE AT THESE LINKS!

<https://www.marathoncounty.gov/awnm>

