

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 Prohibitions-

Q To which farm sizes do the winter spreading prohibitions apply?

- A**
- Farms who have between 300-999 animal units will be prohibited from applying liquid animal waste and/or frozen liquid animal waste in the months of February and March *if frozen or snow-covered soils are present.*
 - This ordinance change only affects the spreading of liquid manure because of its ability to readily move across the soil surface. Solid manure is still allowed to be spread during the prohibited months for liquid manure.
 - One “animal unit” is 1,000 pounds. A dairy cow is 1.4 animal units. Online animal unit calculators are available on the DNR website (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/CAFO/3400-025A.pdf>).

Q Can farms with 300-999 animal units still land-apply solid manure in February and March?

- A**
- Yes, solid manure is still allowed to be land-applied following Nutrient Management Plan standards.

Q What if the ground is not frozen or snow-covered in February and/or March?

- A**
- If there is no snow and the ground is not frozen and the livestock operation can document this in spreading logs and photos, then liquid animal waste and/or frozen liquid animal waste can be applied. Documentation shall be kept in the event this information is requested by the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ) Department.

Q What if a manure pit is in danger of over-flowing due to a precipitation event in February and/or March?

- A**
- Emergency liquid animal waste applications will be allowed during February and March if certain conditions are met (see Ordinance for details) and CPZ is notified.
 - Before any liquid animal waste and/or frozen liquid animal waste is land applied, all cropland and application rates are approved by CPZ.

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Q

How will CPZ help affected farmers that do not have sufficient storage for their manure in February and March (if they fall into the 300-999 animal units category)?

A

- CPZ staff will meet with these few farms (it is anticipated that this is less than 10 farms) on an individual basis to provide guidance, technical assistance, and connect them with grant opportunities to build additional storage. If practical, we will work to connect those affected to nearby available waste storage (some farms have empty or underutilized animal waste storage facilities that they would be willing to rent).

Q

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

A

- While the implementation date has yet to be determined by Marathon County's Environmental Resources Committee (ERC), it has been suggested by the Marathon County Animal Waste Ordinance Workgroup that there is a delayed implementation date of **January 1, 2030, for manure spreading prohibitions.**

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>

