

Managing Manure Piles- Things to Consider When Siting Temporary Storage

When planning out where to temporarily store manure to be used as fertilizer, it is important to review a few key factors to protect both the valuable material and to keep our waters clean.

Where do you have safe locations for storage? Identify as many areas on your farm as you can for flexibility.

Things to Consider

- ✓ Locate manure piles at least 300 feet from all wells and downslope waterways (including ditches). Find areas where there are no concerns of groundwater springs, seeps, subsurface drainage, or aquifer recharge areas.
- ✓ Stay away from areas that have frequent flooding or surface water flow that might impact your stockpiles. Divert all clean water flow around piles that might lead to contamination.
- ✓ Consider locating stockpiles on impervious surfaces to prevent leaching.
- ✓ Think about installing a grass filter strip or a vegetated buffer strip along drainage ditches and waterways, especially in areas commonly used for temporary stockpiles.
- ✓ Consider odor and visual effects on neighboring households.
- ✓ If the pile will not be utilized soon, consider covering with plastic to exclude rain water and reduce runoff.
- ✓ Plan out access points and make sure you communicate with any delivery person where safe storage is located.
- ✓ Have a backup plan if weather such as snow, ice or mud interfere with your planned storage location.
- ✓ Think of your neighbors- could the pile be located away from homes to avoid odor concerns?

Check the NRCS Standard (590) for Nutrient Management for more information.

Remember, concentrated nutrients entering waterways (including ditches and streams) is a violation of Article 17 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and may be punishable by fines. If you can see or smell the issue, chances are others are seeing it too.

Reach out to your local Soil & Water Conservation District, NRCS, or Nutrient Management Planner with questions or for help with managing your nutrient resources.



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