

Manure Incorporation and Utilization

Purpose

- To encourage the application and incorporation of manure into a growing crop
- To shift timing of manure application to better utilize nitrogen and phosphorus
- To reduce the risk of manure and nutrient runoff

Applicability

Manure Incorporation and Utilization applies to cropland acres in the project area. The producer is only eligible for one manure payment per field annually. Acres receiving payment under any other county, state, or federal program for Nutrient Management (EQIP, H2Ohio, MWCD, etc.) are not eligible. Cropland enrolled in CSP and receiving payment for NRCS Practices 590 are not eligible. Any documented discharge of manure may result in an automatic forfeiture of payment or dismissal from the H2Ohio program.

Specifications

1. Producer must have an approved Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP), Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).
 - a. Fields enrolled in this BMP, that use a fixed application rate, must have an average Mehlich-III soil test phosphorus level of 50 ppm or less. Fields enrolled in this BMP, that use a variable application rate, must have a Mehlich-III soil test phosphorus level of 50 ppm or less at the grid or zone level.
 - b. Plant available nitrogen applied through the manure shall not exceed the nitrogen recommendations for the current crop or the next planned crop, whichever is applicable. If the following crop is a legume, nitrogen can be applied at the nitrogen removal rate for the legume crop up to a maximum of 150 pounds of plant available nitrogen at the time of application.
2. Manure cannot be surface applied to frozen, snow-covered, or saturated soils.
3. Manure cannot be surface applied if there is a greater than 50% chance of precipitation exceeding ½" in the next 24 hours.
4. A cover crop is required for manure applications completed after June 30 and where a growing crop is not present.
5. Manure is animal excreta
6. **All manure applications must be completed by October 31.**

Manure application must be accomplished in a manner consistent with one of the following methods and timing

Incorporated or Injected Applications

- All manure will be injected or incorporated to a minimum of 2 inches below the surface. Surface applied manure must be incorporated using a full-width disturbance tillage tool to mix the manure with the soil.
- Manure shall be applied after April 1 and before crop emergence and must be incorporated within 24 hours of application.
- Manure is applied via side dress injection to a growing corn crop after emergence.
- Manure may be applied to wheat or overwintering cover crop with a grassland applicator or comparable equipment after green-up.

- Manure is injected directly into the soil in established covers with minimal surface disruption.
- Manure is surface applied after the harvest of a crop and incorporated within 24 hours of application.

In-season Applications

- Manure may be irrigated from June 1 to August 30 on a growing crop.
- Manure may be applied to a perennial forage immediately after harvest of the perennial forage.
- Pen pack or dry manure (cannot be pumped through a dragline) applied after April 1 and before June 30 does not have to be incorporated if there is 75% crop residue at the time of application.
- Pen pack or dry manure (cannot be pumped through a dragline) applied after harvest of a small grain and before August 30 on an established cover crop does not have to be incorporated if there is 75% living cover.

Participant Payments

- Participants will receive \$35/ac/yr for dry manure (cannot be pumped through a dragline) utilization, and \$60/ac/yr for all other manure utilization.
- A \$15/ac/yr. Bonus payment will be made to fields that have a field average of less than 25 ppm Mehlich-III.
- Payment will be made on acres where manure application was completed. Payments will be made annually after all requirements have been verified.
- If a 2-year manure application is made, only one payment will be made in that 2-year period. Also, no more nutrients may be applied until those nutrients are utilized.
- Only one manure utilization payment will be made per field annually regardless of how many applications are made.