Best Environmental Management Practices

Emergency Action Planning for Livestock Operations

Don Jones and Alan Sutton, Purdue University and Charles Gould, Michigan State University

This publication provides an outline to develop an emergency plan for manure releases. Livestock producers should plan for potential manure releases, high animal death loss, and silage leachate. This plan should be readily available to and understood by all farm employees. The main points of the plan along with the relevant phone numbers should be posted by all telephones at the site. A copy should also be available in remote locations or vehicles if the land application sites are not adjacent to the facility office.

What to Do if There is a Spill

Recognize and make an initial assessment of the spill then take quick and effective actions to minimize damage. Some operations will need assistance from other nearby producers and others. It is essential that prior arrangement be made so that every person involved will know what to do when an emergency arises.

The 4 Cs of Spill Response

1. Control the Source:
   - Stop manure application or pumps
   - Close valves
   - Separate pipes, creating an air gap and stopping flow due to siphoning
   - Transfer manure liquid to another basin, lagoon or tank
   - Plug holes, or shut off the water in case of a waterline break

2. Contain the spill
   - Build containment dam in field, ditch or stream. Check for tile flows
   - Limit the area impacted
   - Construct a temporary holding basin down slope from the release
   - Use absorbent material such as sawdust to absorb the release
   - If accessible, place soil over the point of seepage

3. Comply with Reporting Requirements
   - Did the release reach any surface waters, streams, well casings, or other sensitive areas?
   - You must immediately report manure spills on public roads (county sheriff) and those that threaten surface waters (state environmental management agency)
   - For other spills, prepare a summary report for your files to document your actions

4. Clean up - Assess and Restore the Affected Area
   - Collect spilled manure and spread or return to storage
   - Restore damaged area
   - Prepare a summary report

Farm name:
Date:

1) List Emergency Telephone Numbers

   Facility Owner:
   Alternate Contact:

   Environmental management agencies:
   Drain Commissioner:
   Fire Department:
   Road Commissioner:
   State Police:
   County Health Dept.:
   Co. Sheriff:
   Other:

   Agriculture Pollution Emergency Hotline
   Michigan 1-800-405-0101
   Indiana 1-888-233-7745 or (317) 233-7745
   (Office of Environmental Response)

2) Develop a Map
   Items to include:
   - Anticipated flow path in the event of a spill
   - Well heads
   - Streams, wetlands, and lakes
   - Tile flow
   - Schools, churches, daycare centers, etc…
   - Road ditches
   - Drainage ditches
   - Other Sensitive areas

3) Earth-moving equipment available for manure spills
   Include owned and other nearby equipment and contact information. Ideally, you should have a prearranged agreement with neighboring producers. Include excavating equipment as well as additional pumping equipment and storage.

4) Emergency Action Plans for potential

   Additional Equipment and Storage
   Location and Owner
   Telephone

   manure spills on your farm

   Breach of Manure Storage
   Your plan:

   General action steps: Stop flow into storage, build containment dams, notify state regulatory agency and farm to pumpkin manure from storage to field, remove manure from discharge area. Utilize prearranged additional storage with neighbors.

   Manure Spill on Road
   Your plan:

   General action steps: Human injuries, if present, take precedence. Stop any additional spill, build containment dams, and remove manure, contact Road Commissioner and Drain Commissioner, wash manure from road under advisement. Prepare summary report. Contact the county sheriff if manure is spilled in a roadway.

   Manure Spill in Field
   Your plan:

   General action steps: Stop manure application, build containment dams, remove manure from discharge area, notify appropriate agency. Prepare summary report.

   Manure Field Runoff
   Your plan:

   General action steps: Stop application, plow a diversion trench, and remove manure if needed, notify appropriate agency. Prepare summary report.

   High Animal Mortality
   Your plan:

   General action steps: Mortalities may be buried, burned or rendered. In MI, contact the Department of Agriculture or Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for exemption to state Act 239, P.A. 1982, as amended. In IN, contact the State Veterinarian’s Office.
Confined Spaces Entrance Procedure
Your plan: ____________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Silage Leachate Containment Plan
Your plan: ____________________________

____________________________________

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General action steps: Utilize sawdust, lime or other material to contain and or neutralize leachate. Collect leachate in designed containment; utilize grass filter strip to treat pad runoff.

Other Tools and Resources
Emergency planning:
• Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship
  Distributed by MidWest Plan Service
  1-800-562-3618, www.MWPSHG.org

For silage leachate management:
• Frequently Asked Questions Document
  www.maeap.org

Animal Mortality Management:
• Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship
  Distributed by MidWest Plan Service
  1-800-562-3618, www.MWPSHG.org
• State Law
• Brochure
• Animal Industry Division Phone Number

Contact Information:
Michigan:
• Contact Department of Environmental Quality if manure intercepts a water of the state.
  Michigan emergency hotline: 1-800-405-0101
• Michigan Emergency Tube
• Your local Groundwater Technician for assistance

Indiana:
• Contact Department of Environmental Management, Office of Environmental Response within 2 hours of any spill.
  1-888-233-7745 or (317) 233-7745

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