MANURE MANNERS

A quick guide to the rules and etiquette surrounding manure storage, use and disposal for small livestock operations.

OVERVIEW

Raising livestock inevitably means dealing with crap - and lots of it. Within Clermont County, the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation district is often the first line when dealing with manure related complaints. The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), Division of Soil and Water Conservation has the authority under the Ohio Revised Code (Chapter 939) to establish standards for a level of management and conservation practices in farming and animal feeding operations to help reduce pollution of waters of the state by soil sediment, animal manure and residual farm products.

The Clermont SWCD works collaboratively with the ODA to provide voluntary technical assistance to producers to find solutions that uplift their agriculture operation while respecting and conserving our natural resources. This quick guide will review some of the current laws regarding manure storage, use, and disposal manure.

LAWS

Laws regarding manure are found in Chapter 901:13-1 of Ohio's Revised code. The core principle of these laws are summarized by the following quote:

"Each owner, operator or person responsible for an animal feeding operation shall operate and maintain animal manure collection, storage, or treatment facilities so that overflow or discharge into waters of the state is prevented" ***- Rule 901:13-1-02***

ODA's enforcement of these laws occur when voluntary compliance is not achieved at the local level. You are encouraged to read and understand these laws if you will be managing manure in your operation.

For more information on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Pollution Abatement Program (APAP) and Ohio Manure Law

STORAGE

When storing manure your goal is to keep the manure contained and unable to reach any waterway include rivers, streams, and man made water courses like road side ditches or sewers. Outside of bacteria and other disease concerns, manure contains high amounts of Nitrogen and Phosphorous which are linked to an increase in harmful algal blooms.

BEST STORAGE PRACTICES:

- Keep manure in a relatively dry area.
- Keep manure in a relatively flat area.
  - Ex. The picture above shows manure at the top of a slope with a creek below. Any rain event will cause manure to run into the creek which violates the Ohio revised code.
- Keep manure piles at least 300 ft. from water courses and sources (ditches, streams, wells) and keep piles out of the 100 year floodplain.
- Keep clean water clean by limiting rain water from accessing manure piles.

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USE

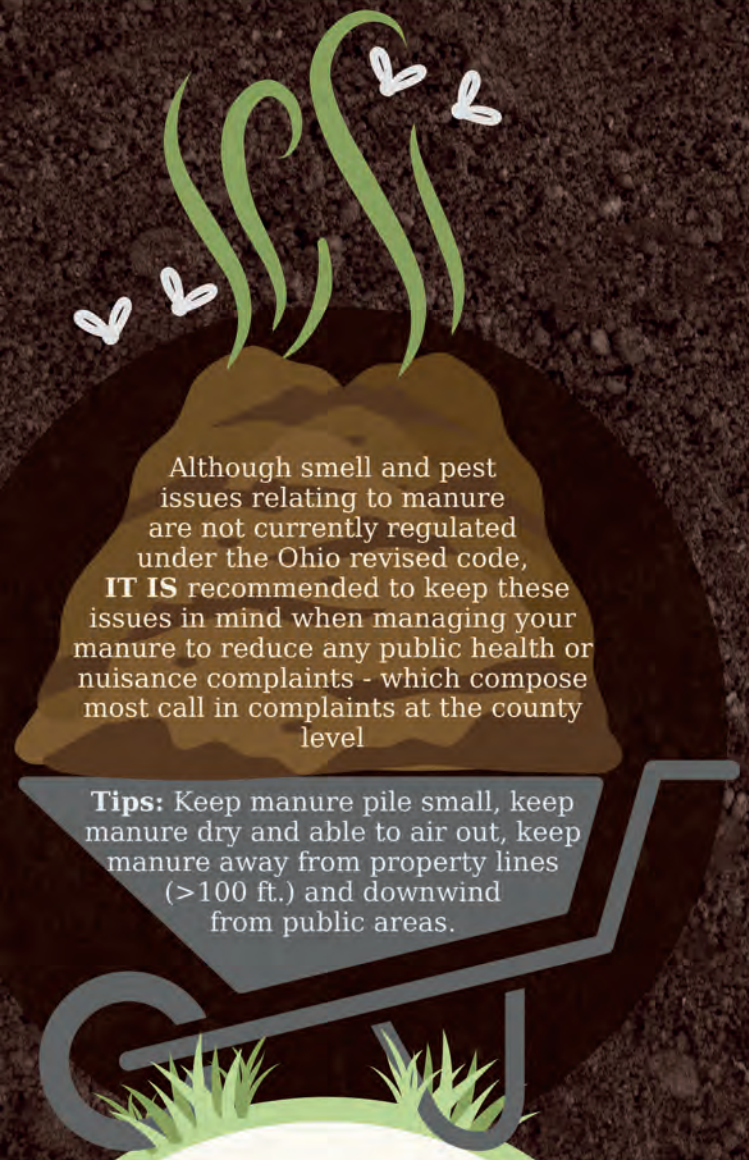
Direct application of manure is often used on crop fields to increase nutrients in the soil, however excess nutrients also pose a risk to water quality. If you are planning on using manure for direct application on crop land having a nutrient management plan is highly recommended.

Most nutrient management plans follow the 4R principles. The Right Source, Rate and Place are often determined through the assistance of soil testing. Right Timing of manure applications has greater restrictions to ensure crops are able to uptake the nutrients most effectively, reducing the risk of runoff pollution.

Right Time -

- Do not apply when there is a greater than fifty percent chance of precipitation exceeding one-half inch for a period extending twenty-four hours before the start of application.
- Do not apply manure to fields that are frozen or between the dates of December 15th and March 1st.

Check out the USDA's conservation practice standard for Nutrient Management (590)



Although smell and pest issues relating to manure are not currently regulated under the Ohio revised code, **IT IS** recommended to keep these issues in mind when managing your manure to reduce any public health or nuisance complaints - which compose most call in complaints at the county level

Tips: Keep manure pile small, keep manure dry and able to air out, keep manure away from property lines (>100 ft.) and downwind from public areas.

This manure pile exceeds reasonable storage size and time.

DISPOSAL

On site Composting and Spreading:

- Adding 1/2 cup of ammonium Nitrate to each wheelbarrow or spreader full of stall pickings before spreading or adding to a compost pile will prevent soil nitrogen deficiency when added to the soil.
- 2 acres of pasture are necessary for spreading per 1,000 lb horse
- Make sure that you are following ODA guidelines when spreading

Give Away:

- Best for small operations near urban locations. Use a road front sign or advertise in a local paper.

Haul Off Site/Containers:

- Most local waste removal companies rent out disposal containers
  - Sizing guideline - 4 cubic yard container emptied weekly is suitable for 2-4 horses
  - May be able to toss in regular refuse bin if quantities are small enough
- Some offsite composters may be able to take manure
  - A offsite composter must be a class 3 or 2 facility to take manure OR be operating compost piles under 500 sq.ft. in size

Clermont S.W.C.D. Soil & Water Conservation District

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For local technical assistance contact Clermont SWCD

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