



MANURE MANAGEMENT
SMALL SCALE AND
BACKYARD LIVESTOCK

THE LAWS

Act 38: Act 38 is Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management law. It was first signed into law in July 2005. It replaced Act 6 of 1993, which was PA's first nutrient management law.

Chapter 91 : Chapter 91 of the Clean Streams Law requires all operations that generate or utilize manure to have and follow a Manure Management Plan.



Who needs a Manure Management Plan?

All facilities or properties that have animals that produce manure or apply manure to crop fields and pastures **must** have a written Manure Management Plan.

1

Planning for Manure Management

Be sure that you are aware of the locations of ponds and streams and other sensitive areas that may be near manure- laden areas.

Be sure to have a plan for what to do with manure in winter- winter spreading is generally discouraged, and there are rules about how to do it.

2

Manure Storage

Accumulating manure in a concentrated area can be risky to the environment and to human and animal health. Storing animal waste properly can be involved, and is often subject to regulations regarding design, location, maintenance, and monitoring. For example, manure cannot be stored within 100 feet of a sensitive area such as a pond or stream.

3

Pasture Management

Pastures should have 3" tall vegetation across the entirety of the area. Mowing can be a good form of weed suppression. When less-preferred plants become abundant, the animals may overgraze preferred areas, making them bare. You may find that there are areas that your animals prefer to stand or walk. When these become bare soil, they can be referred to as Animal Concentration Areas.

4

Animal Concentration Areas

These areas are heavily used by livestock. Common characteristics include: large amounts of waste deposition, inability to maintain vegetation, and, frequently, close proximity to water. Concentration of animals increases the potential for sediment, bacteria, nitrogen, and phosphorus to enter surface water and groundwater. Mud and manure in these areas are not only a source of pollutants, but also of microbes that can cause animal health problems.

A well-planned ACA or "sacrifice area" can protect against many of these problems. They should be 100' from sensitive areas such as streams. They should be constructed with a layer of stone aggregate, topped with at least 2"-3" of fine stone dust. The sacrifice area should be surrounded with vegetation, so that organic matter and sediment that does run off can be filtered out. Manure should be routinely picked up and moved to a storage area.



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NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Non-point source pollution is pollution that comes from many sources across the landscape. There is not one single location responsible for this type of pollution. Stormwater runoff from livestock facilities contributes to this pollution, and can affect water quality and human health! Polluted stormwater from agricultural operations can be minimized by properly planning for manure management, properly storing manure, managing pastures appropriately, avoiding animal concentration areas, and properly handling them when they arise.



We appreciate your feedback!

- Send an email to Amanda Bunn at abunn@lehighconservation.org to receive a feedback form.
- We have **free** soil and manure test kits for people who provide feedback!
 - Limited availability!



Resources for you

- More information about manure laws can be found on the PA code website.
 - <http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov>
- Penn State Extension has numerous resources available about manure management. Content delivery formats include courses, webinars, and articles, and more!
 - <https://extension.psu.edu/>



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