

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

A Quick Update on Nutrient Management

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2008 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE MEETINGS

PLAN TO ATTEND THE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE MEETING IN MARCH?

Similar to last year, the Environmental Management Branch is planning to hold three nutrient management update meetings across the province. These meetings will provide updates on the nutrient management program and related topics. The meetings take place on the following dates:

March 4 – Guelph

March 18 – Kemptonville

March 25 – London

This year, a committee of certified consultants and OMAFRA staff worked together to develop the meeting agenda. The committee provided input to the agenda topics and how to make these meetings effective for consultants.

Topics for the meeting include:

- Manure Application Technologies
- Update on Ministry of Environment inspections
- Status Report on Water Quality in Ontario
- Introduction to NMAN 2: What you need to know!

The meetings will start at 9 a.m. and will wrap up at 4:30 p.m. Following the formal meeting there will be one additional hour of optional NMAN2 training available. To register for these meetings contact the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460.

WHEN THE DEAL FALLS APART

INCOMPLETE REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY APPROVALS

Sometimes the best laid plans get changed before completion. The approvals process must be as flexible as possible to accommodate this fact. Here is a common example, and the procedure to be followed if you or your client find yourself in this situation.

An operation is in the process of purchasing a new property. They need to modify the existing animal housing on the new property and want to start construction as soon as the deal goes through. They know that they will need an approved NMS in order to be granted a building permit for the modifications. A consultant is hired and the NMS is prepared, submitted and approved before the property purchase and sale transaction has been completed.

At the last minute, an agreement cannot be reached between the buyer and the seller of the property. Now the operation has an approved NMS for a property that they do not own and for a facility that they cannot build. The current owner of the property has no intention of modifying the animal housing, therefore the NMS will not be implemented.

If you or your client experiences these circumstances, please contact the Approvals, Certification and Licensing Unit, provide an explanation of the circumstances and request that the NMS approval be revoked. A notice of revocation will be issued to the operation that was granted the approval and both parties can carry on with their businesses as before the approval was granted. A reason for the revocation will be given in the notice (usually a sentence or two) and this reason will be based on the explanation of the circumstances that you have provided.

By Dale McComb

SEED, FUEL, FERTILIZER... NUTRIENT APPLICATION TECHNICIAN LICENCE?

Perhaps the January thaw has turned your thoughts to spring and the upcoming planting season. As farmers run down their pre-planting checklist, they may need to consider the licence requirements of the custom operators hired to apply nutrients on their operation.

As of December 31, 2006, individuals who apply nutrients to a phased-in agricultural operation that requires a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) where they are not the owner, operator or employee, can only do so with a valid Nutrient Application Technician's Licence. The licence is issued to an individual and is valid for five years.

Nutrient management inspections conducted in 2007 in Wellington and Dufferin Counties show that several of the custom operators applying nutrients do not have the appropriate licence. The inspections also show that, in some cases, adequate vegetated buffer zones have not been established adjacent to surface water.

In the months leading up to the planting season we all have the opportunity to advise farm operators and nutrient applicators across the province of these legislative requirements. Additional information regarding the Nutrient Application Technician's Licence can be found at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/cert/courses.htm>.

By Dave Bray, Agricultural Environmental Officer, Ministry of the Environment, Guelph District

Dates to Remember:

February 6 & 7 - Regulations and Protocols Course - Woodstock

To register, call the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460

February 12 - Nutrient Application Technician Licence Course - Clinton

To register, call the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460

February 19 - Broker's Certificate Course - London

To register, call the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460

February 19 & 20 - Introduction to Nutrient Management - Mount Forest

To register, call the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460

February 19 & 20 - Land Application Business Owner's Licence Course - London

To register, call the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460

February 25 – Growing Your Opportunities Value Added Workshop (Day 1 of 2) Bruce County

More information shortly

February 26 – Growing Your Opportunities Value Added Workshop (Day 1 of 2)

Huron Health Unit, Clinton – more information shortly

February 27 & 28 - How to Prepare a Nutrient Management Strategy and Plan (Using NMAN) - Guelph

To register, call the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460

March 5, 6 & 7, 2008 – Western Fair Farm Show, London, ON.

Mark your calendar and watch for details on-line at <http://www.westernfair.com/shows/farm.html>

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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