

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

A Quick Update on Nutrient Management

VOLUME NO. 1, ISSUE NO 8. OCTOBER 2008

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- **Expedited Reviews,** What are they and when are they used?

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND DEADSTOCK

By Jacqui Laporte, Environmental Specialist & Christoph Wand, Beef Cattle, Sheep and Goat Nutritionist

Managing deadstock is an inevitable product of raising livestock. Disposing of deadstock takes time and money. The key issues regarding deadstock include public health, perception, economics, and environmental protection. Deadstock disposal concerns go far beyond just deciding which method is most convenient.

Improper disposal of deadstock poses risks to environmental quality, animal health (in terms of contagious diseases and biosecurity concerns) and public health, which includes the farm family. Also improper disposal of livestock and poultry mortalities is a sensitive public issue.

The Dead Animal Disposal Act (DADA) was created in the 1960's to prevent meat from dead livestock from entering the human food chain. The legislation includes only cattle, horses, swine, sheep and goats, and has received only minor changes since that time.

Under this Act, all dead cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and horses must be disposed of within 48 hours after death, in one of three approved methods:

- removal through a licensed deadstock collection service
- composting under 60 cm (2 ft) of organic substrate, such as sawdust or straw
- burial under 60 cm (2 ft) of soil and away from all waterways

A review of the DADA is underway. Proposed future regulations may stipulate that on-farm management and disposal standards come under the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 and off farm licensing, management and disposal may be regulated under the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001.

Any questions and concerns about deadstock transportation, management and disposal should be directed to the toll free line at 1-877-424-1300, or e-mail: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BRANCH EXPEDITED REVIEWS WHAT ARE THEY AND WHEN ARE THEY USED?

By Jacqui Laporte, Environmental Specialist

EXPEDITED REVIEWS
will only be approved
for emergency
situations

**REQUESTS must be
accompanied by proof
of the situation leading
up to the need for
expedited review or
“fast tracking”**

See the Premier's
Video on Eating Well!
[www.premier.gov.on.ca
/news/Product.asp?
ProductID=2468](http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/news/Product.asp?ProductID=2468)

HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED A PANICKED PHONE CALL FROM A CLIENT WHO JUST FOUND OUT THEY NEED AN APPROVED STRATEGY BEFORE THEY CAN BUILD AND THE CONTRACTOR IS COMING NEXT WEEK?

Just in case you have to deal with this situation here are some guidelines to keep in mind for Expedited Review requests.

What is an Expedited Review? It is a request to have an Approvals Specialist review a Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) on a priority basis. Expedited Reviews are approved only for emergency situations beyond the control of the producer. Examples include barn fires and severe weather damage. Expedited Reviews will not be approved for NMS due to contractors scheduling, end of funding programs, or end of building seasons. All producers are awaiting their approvals, and it is only fair to review applications in the order that they are received.

If a producer has an emergency situation such as a barn fire, the consultant and producer may submit a Request for Expedited Review form (available from your local Environmental Specialist). The form should be accompanied by an explanation and proof of the emergency event (such as the fire or police report). The Director will review the application, and if approved, the NMS will be immediately assigned to an Approvals Specialist for review.

In general, the Approvals Unit has been successful in cutting down the time required for reviews and approvals. This also recognizes the high level of professional preparation and development of the NMS by the certified consultants.

For more information, please contact Jacqui Laporte at 519-482-1288 or jacqui.laporte@ontario.ca



NEW ONTARIO BIOGAS SYSTEMS OPERATORS' COURSE AVAILABLE SOON! By Suzanne Conquer, Education Coordinator

FROM OCTOBER 14TH TO 17TH, 2008 OMAFRA WILL HOLD THE PILOT BIOGAS SYSTEMS OPERATORS' COURSE IN OTTAWA TO AN AUDIENCE OF INVITEES FROM THE FARMING AND BIOGAS INDUSTRIES.

Feedback and evaluation from the pilot course will help refine and finalize curriculum for the next course on January 13-16, 2009 in Woodstock, Ontario. The course will be available in French by next March. To help ensure a safe and effective industry, all operators of food and farm based biogas systems will be encouraged to attend this course in the future.

The course will be delivered by skilled facilitators who will encourage discussion and interaction in the classroom. OMAFRA is working with IBBK to develop and deliver this course. IBBK is a European organization internationally recognized for their expertise in anaerobic digestion. IBBK has provided a biogas training program to hundreds of biogas operators in Germany and other European countries over several years. IBBK's content has been translated and modified for delivery here in Ontario to meet the specific needs of participants. It is a great opportunity to make use of a well-established training approach.

The objective of the Biogas Systems Operators' Course is to increase knowledge on the safety aspects of biogas, how the system works, and methods for testing and monitoring biogas systems to get the best results. This course is being delivered as part of the Ontario Biogas Systems Financial Assistance Program to ensure that Ontario biogas system operators have access to leading-edge information.

For more information on the course, please contact Suzanne Conquer at 519-826-4036 or suzanne.conquer@ontario.ca.

Information About Environmental Management Branch Concerns With Grain Bins and Silos Converted For Grain Storage

By John Johnson, Engineer, Civil Systems

IF YOUR GRAIN BIN OR SILO IS SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF STRESS, BEFORE YOU EMPTY IT, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER WHO CAN FOLLOW UP WITH FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

The following is a partial listing of some of the more common signs of stress. Other signs of distress may be present, depending on your particular situation.

Steel bins

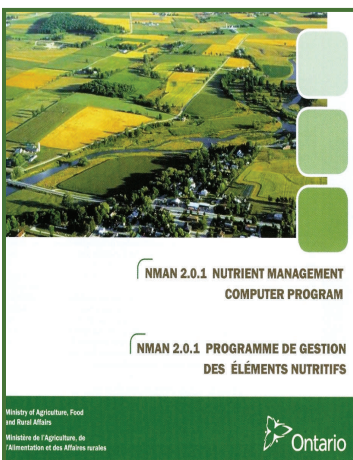
- Sealant on the vertical joints of the corrugated sidewall sheets show signs that the bolted joints have slipped, and the diameter of the bin may have expanded. This sign of stress is most evident near the bottom of the bin.
- Upper vertical stiffeners on the interior or on the exterior do not sit squarely on the stiffener section directly below it.
- Sometimes very high loading can cause the stiffener connections to slip sideways or to become deformed. In some cases the bolts may be broken or sheared.
- The bin may be noticeably out of plumb.
- The sidewall stiffeners may appear curved when sighted vertically. Use a long straight edge as a guide.

Concrete silos:

- Concrete silos are commonly converted to use as dry grain storage. However, silos previously designed for whole plant silage or haylage have a limited capacity for dry grain unless additional reinforcing is provided. Additional reinforcing is usually in the form of steel hoops at vertical intervals on the outside of the silo. You need an engineer to design this increased reinforcing.
- Cracks in the concrete are one of the only signs to warn you of an impending failure. Scanning the entire outside of the silo is necessary to determine if new cracks have developed. You can sometimes use binoculars to do a cursory inspection.

The consequences of a structural failure are very critical and can be life threatening. Emptying a bin can cause a significant increase in the loads applied to the bin structure. If a failure is about to happen, unloading grain can cause an instantaneous structural failure. If you suspect that your grain bin or silo has structural problems, do not empty it before having a professional engineer on-site to evaluate the situation.

WHAT TYPE OF OPERATION IS IT? By Jim Arnold, Environmental Engineer



ARE YOU USING THE NEW NMAN SOFTWARE AND LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON THE TYPE OF OPERATION?

Unlike the old NMAN's Farm Unit Declaration Form, the one generated by the new NMAN provides no information about operation type.

The only place where operation type can be identified is on the second page of the NMAN printout. When entering data using the Farm Unit tab in NMAN caution is needed because the information is often incorrectly entered with the default value of "Sole Proprietorship" being displayed. By entering the operation type you can save both you and your client time during the data entry and review process.

If the operation is a corporation, please submit a copy of the first page of the incorporation document, where the official name and number of the corporation and corporate seal are all shown. If the ownership includes two or more names, then specify it as a partnership. And finally, if multiple people are involved, properly identify each person and their role in the operation as owner or operator.

NEW NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COURSE CALENDAR IS POSTED ONLINE!

You can access them here at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/cert/courses.htm>.

Additional courses and locations (including French language courses) will be added to the schedule based on demand. Anyone wanting to request an additional course or suggest a more convenient location should contact their local Environmental Specialist or the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 1, 2008

- NMS submissions must use NMAN 2.0.2 or the Nutrient Management Strategy Application Form

Nutrient Management Consultant Update Meetings:

February 12, 2009 NM Consultant Meeting Guelph

February 19, 2009 NM Consultant Meeting London

February 26, 2009 NM Consultants Meeting Kemptonville

- All consultant update meetings are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- A detailed agenda will be shared with you through the newsletter.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have questions? Need more information? Have a comment about what you'd like to see in the next issue? Please contact your area Environmental Specialist at:

Jacqui Laporte

Environmental Specialist

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Northern Ontario Regional Office: 1-800-461-6132

www.ontario.ca/omafra