

PREVENTING

Manure Spills & Run-Off Events

Manitowoc County



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MANITOWOC COUNTY

Accidents peak in spring and fall when most manure is hauled. This document serves as a reference for preventing and responding to manure spills during manure storage, transport, and land application. Please note, the farm owner is responsible for a manure spill in WI. Prevention is key to avoiding spills. Be proactive and follow Manitowoc County's Animal Waste Management Ordinance. Visit: <https://go.wisc.edu/7p9u00> to access Manitowoc County SWCD waste management Information and interactive maps.

PREVENTING SPILLS



Use Caution

WHEN APPLYING
MANURE
NEAR CRITICAL SITES



Be Aware

ROUTINELY MONITOR STORAGE
FACILITIES AND MANURE
APPLICATION EQUIPMENT



Think Ahead

KNOW WHAT TO DO IN
CASE OF A SPILL:
HAVE AN EMERGENCY
PLAN IN PLACE

Utilize Current Hazard Maps

Provided by Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department



Incorporate Manure Right Away

and apply based on crop need & Nutrient Management Plan

Immediate Incorporation:

1. Decreases Odors by 90%
2. Reduces the Possibility of Run-Off
3. Increases Nitrogen Credits from Manure



Watch the Weather

and follow seasonal spreading requirements

Think ahead at least 48 hours. The Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast Map provides up to date information about the risk of runoff for a 3-day timeframe in summer and 10 days in winter.

<https://go.wisc.edu/od8fx2>

Manure Storage Facilities:

- Monitor the manure level in the facility & keep manure below your M.O.L. marker, if not present, at least 1.5 ft. or more from the top of the storage facility at all times.
- A contingency plan shall be implemented when the manure level reaches 1.5 ft. from the top of the manure storage facility. The plan should include how to handle unexpected volumes of animal waste that could cause the system to overflow before scheduled emptying can occur. Consider the following:
 - Contact & cooperate with neighboring farms that have manure storage space available.
 - Use land that is flat and far away from streams, ditches, lakes, bedrock, tile inlets, & sinkholes that complies with your county-approved Nutrient Management Plan.
 - Contact and get permission to use neighboring farm fields
 - Emergency application must meet local and state regulations
- Routinely inspect the storage facilities for side sloughing, rodent holes, agitation damage, and leaks.
- Maintain pumps and inspect shut-off and safety valves regularly.
- Remove enough manure (between emptying cycles) to avoid overflows.
- Call the Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department (920)-683-4183 for technical advice.

Before, During & After Application:

- Utilize Manitowoc Soil hazard maps <https://go.wisc.edu/7p9u00> or your NMP hazard maps to identify & inform applicators and employees of critical sites including: *** wells * channels * ditches * waterways * streams * rivers * lakes * ponds * tile inlets * broken tile lines * sinkholes * bedrock near the surface. * or call 920-683-4183**
- Watch the weather forecast prior to, during, and after application.
Visit: <https://go.wisc.edu/od8fx2> to view the WI Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast Map.
- Till the soil around the entire field prior to manure application.
- Incorporate manure near critical sites immediately (i.e. directly behind the applicator)
- Develop and have your emergency response plan available.
- Check & monitor application equipment prior to and during use.
- Apply manure based on crop need and approved NMP.
- Incorporate manure near non-critical sites as soon as possible to decrease odors, reduce the possibility of runoff, and increase the nitrogen credits from manure.
- Have an emergency response kit and portable manure hose clamps available.

Tile Line Discharge:

- Keep a map of tile lines, including inlet & outlet locations so they can be found as needed.
- Observe and monitor tile outlets before, during, and after manure applications.
- Identify and repair tile line blowouts before spreading manure.
- Use tillage (2) inches below manure application depth to disrupt the continuity of worm holes, root channels, and cracks in the soil.
- Make more frequent, lower rate applications rather than a single heavy application.
- Avoid spreading in the rain or when rain is in the forecast.

RESPONDING

to Manure Spills & Run-Off Events

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No matter how a spill happens, immediate action is required to prevent more serious problems. The state of Wisconsin requires immediate reporting of manure spills and run-off to the DNR Spill Hotline if it threatens to cause adverse impacts to human health, safety, or the environment. The hotline is staffed 24 hours per day. Call: 1-800-943-0003. Have an emergency plan in place

RESPONDING TO SPILLS

1. Control the Spill

- STOP PUMPS
- CLOSE VALVES
- TRANSFER TO ANOTHER STORAGE FACILITY



2. Contact your Supervisor

4. Call Authorities

DNR REPORTING HOTLINE

1-800-943-0003

3. Contain the Spill

- CREATE A DAM
- TILL TO SLOW THE FLOW
- DIVERT FROM CRITICAL SITES



5. Clean-up the Spill

- WORK MANURE INTO THE SOIL IMMEDIATELY.
- DIG A BASIN AND USE A VACUUM TRUCK TO REMOVE MANURE FLOWING TO CRITICAL SITES
- IF ON ROAD: SCRAPE, FLUSH, OR PRESSURE WASH THE ROAD SURFACE



6. Document the Spill

- LOCATION & PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME
- PHYSICAL STATE, VOLUME & TYPE
- ACTIONS YOU TOOK TO STOP/MINIMIZE THE SPILL
- ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO HUMAN HEALTH AND/OR THE ENVIRONMENT
- TAKE PHOTOS



Use Current Hazard Maps

Provided by Manitowoc Co. SWCD to identify critical sites such as wells, sinkholes, streams, and shallow bedrock

WHO TO CALL IF A MANURE SPILL OR RUN-OFF OCCURS:



**DNR toll-free spill
REPORTING HOTLINE
1-800-943-0003**

WI DNR Spill Hotline:

1-800-943-0003

The number is staffed 24 hours a day.

Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department:

Office: (920) 683-4183

Monday: 8:30am - 5:00pm Tuesday - Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm

After Hours/SWCD Director: (715) 889-4223

Manitowoc County Emergency Management:

(920) 683-4200

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department:

(920) 683-4200

AN ACCIDENTAL SPILL IS NOT ILLEGAL. FAILURE TO REPORT IT IS.

**RESPONDING
TO SPILLS**

Leaks & Spills from Manure Storage Facilities:

1. Evaluate and eliminate the source that caused the leak or malfunction.
2. Contain the spill immediately through basins & berms
3. Divert manure from critical sites including: * **wells** * **channels** * **ditches** * **waterways** * **streams** * **rivers** * **lakes** * **ponds** * **tile inlets** * **broken tile lines** * **sinkholes** * **bedrock near the surface**
4. Make temporary repairs to stop the leak or overflow.
5. Call your emergency contacts and implement spill clean-up.

Manure Run-off from Fields:

1. Stop manure application immediately & clamp supply pipes.
2. Create berms, basins or field tillage to contain run-off.
3. Divert manure run-off from critical sites.
4. Immediately incorporate applied manure perpendicular to runoff.
5. Check & plug tile lines if manure has entered them.
6. Call your emergency contacts & implement clean-up plan.

Be prepared to provide the following information when you call to report a spill:

- Your name, address, location of the spill, and property owner's name
- The physical state, quantity, and chemical characteristics of the discharged substances
- Actions that you took to stop the release and/or minimize the impact to the environment
- The actual or potential impacts to human health & the environment
- Takes notes and pictures and develop a report of your clean-up efforts.

Manitowoc County Manure Spill and Run-off Emergency Response Plan¹

What to do in Case of a Manure Spill*

1. Eliminate the source.

- Stop manure application or pumps.
- Close valves.
- Separate pipes, creating an air gap and stopping flow.
- Transfer manure/liquid to another storage facility.
- Park a tractor or other heavy equipment on top of flexible piping to pinch it closed or use a clamp.

• Contain the spill.

- Construct a temporary containment dam, down slope. (Use soil, sand, hay bales, bedded pack manure.)
- In a field, use tillage equipment to slow the flow.
- Check & plug tile inlet & outlet lines if manure has entered them.
- Plug downstream culverts with plywood or sheeting.

• Assess the extent of the spill and note any obvious damages.

- Did the spill reach any surface waters, well casings or other sensitive areas?
- How much was released?
- What time did the spill or run-off event occur?
- Did any damage occur (employee injury, fish kills, or property damage)?
- Document with pictures & notes.

• Contact the appropriate agencies. (See names at right.)

- Clean up the spill and make repairs.

- Prepare and submit summary.

Farm Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Farm phone: _____ Cell: _____

Directions to the farm (from crossroad or highway)

Who to Contact if a Manure Spill or Run-off Occurs—including Emergency Phone Numbers.

Wisconsin DNR Spill Reporting Hotline

1-800-943-0003

(This number is staffed 24 hours a day.)

Conservation Warden(s)

Isaac Hackett – 920-226-5426

DNR CAFO Animal Waste Specialist

Trenton Brenny – 608-573-2350

DNR Regional Nonpoint Coordinator

Erin Hanson – 920-360-7845

Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation

920-683-4183 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday)

Home Phone Numbers for County Staff

David Wetenkamp – 715-889-4223

Manitowoc County Emergency Management

920-683-4207

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department

920-683-4200

Manitowoc County Highway Department

920-683-4345

Wisconsin WDNR Tip Line

1-800-847-9367 (Complaints/Violations)

See the attached for a list of local excavators, custom manure applicators and vacuum trucks.

¹ Developed by Jerry Halverson and Scott Gunderson, Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department and Manitowoc County UW-Extension, respectively, January, 2007. Updated February 2026.

* Please review the "Responding to Manure Spills and Run-Off" Guide for more detailed information.

Local Contractors Available to Assist with Manure Spills and Run-Off Events

Excavators Contact Information:

- Evenson Construction Co. - 920-775-4652
- Jossart Brothers, Inc. - 920-339-8500
- Madson Tiling & Excavating - 920-758-2784 or 920-374-0803
- Roeh Excavating, LLC - 920-233-2309
- Ross Excavating- 920-772-4968 or 920-901-0343
- Steve Karl -920-686-3726 or 920-323-1175
- Wagner Excavating - 920-458-9082 or 920-980-3334
- Bob Braun Excavating - 920-374-0902
- Hilltop Trucking & Excavating - 920-772-4435 or 920-946-5222
- Daniel Koehler - 920-901-5783 or 920-973-3979

Manure Handling and Haulers:

- R.Braun, Inc – Office: 920-773-2143 Jake Zutz: 920-905-9629
- Salm's Custom - 920-286-0995
- DeBroux Custom Work, LLC- 920-655-4517 Ryan
- Vanderkinter Farms, LLC - 920-371-3026
- Eisentraut Ag Services - 920-528-7614 OR 920-980-5905
- Gruett's, Inc. - 920-853-3516
- Mike Kaufmann Custom Services - 920-374-0056
- Phil's Pumping and Fabricating - 920-849-2458
- Right Way Applications - 920-758-4075
- River's Edge Dairy LLC - 920-374-1327
- Dvorachek Farm & Industry - 920-901-3991
- Krepline Custom Harvesting - 920-378-4004

Vacuum Pumper Trucks:

- Al Leist Trucking - 920-732-3260 OR 920-323-4760 (cell)
- Maritime Liquid Waste Transport & B&M Waste Service - 920-684-3288 OR 920-758-3400
- Christianson Liquid Waste Service - 920-775-4083
- Right Way Applications - 920-758-4075
- Fox Valley Septic - 920-864-7795
- Timmar Sanitation - 920-863-3750

List compiled by the Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department, January 2007.
Updated – February 2026.

This is a partial listing for informational purposes only. No endorsement is implied or intended.