

House File 2494, passed in the spring of 1998, requires manure applicators in Iowa to be certified.

## Who is Affected

**Commercial manure applicators:** Commercial applicators must be certified to apply or haul dry and liquid manure. A commercial applicator is anyone who is in the business of manure application and who charges a fee for applying manure on the land of another person. Commercial applicators must be certified regardless of the source of the manure (open feedlot or confinement) and the size of the operation.

New employees of commercial applicators who are not yet certified can apply manure for the first 30 days after they are hired if they are directly supervised by a certified commercial manure applicator. The supervisor must be physically present and able to see and communicate with the new employee at all times. After 30 days, they must be certified.

**Confinement site manure applicators:** Confinement site manure applicators or noncommercial applicators must also be certified to apply or haul dry and liquid manure from a confinement feeding operation. If the source of the manure is an open feedlot or a Small Animal Feeding Operation (SAFO<sup>1</sup>), certification is not needed by the noncommercial applicator.

**Exemptions:** Confinement site applicators may include people who are part-time employees of or who trade work with other active farmers. The following people are exempt from commercial certification, but must still have confinement site certification:

- someone actively engaged in farming and trades work with another active farmer,
- someone employed by an active farmer and applies manure only as an incidental part of the job,
- if applies manure as an incidental part of a custom farming operation, or
- if applies manure as an incidental part of their job duties.

Confinement site applicators are exempt from certification if they are

- part-time employees of a confinement site

applicator and are under the direct instruction and control (physically present, physical observation and communication) of a certified confinement site manure applicator where the certified applicator can physically observe and communicate with the supervised person at all times.

## Becoming Certified

To become certified, an applicator must:

- pass an exam or attend a certification training course
- apply for certification on a DNR form, and
- pay the \$50 certification fee.

## Certification Training Courses

Iowa State University Extension offers certification courses throughout the state. The course for commercial applicators is three hours long. For confinement site applicators, the course is two hours.

A list of course dates and locations is available on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group (IMMAG) website at <<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/certificationFr.html>>. Or, contact your local Extension office for a schedule.

## Testing

The DNR administers certification tests for commercial and confinement site applicators. The tests have 50 multiple choice and true-false questions. Those who want to take either test should bring a photo identification card and a #2 lead pencil to the test site. Contact a DNR field office for a list of test times and sites. (See back for phone numbers.)

## Training Manual and Test Preparation

Applicators may want to purchase the “Manure Applicator Certification Study Guide” to use when studying for the test. The guides are available for \$20 at ISU Extension county offices, or through Extension Distribution, Printing and Publications Building, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-

<sup>1</sup> “Small Animal Feeding Operation” means an animal feeding operation that has an animal weight capacity of 200,000 pounds or less for animals other than bovine (1,333 finishers at an average weight of 150 pounds), or 400,000 pounds or less for bovine (333 dairy cows at an average weight of 1,200 pounds).

3171, (515) 294-5247. Commercial applicators should order Pm-1778 and confinement site applicators should order Pm-1779.

To pass the test, you should understand:

- the effects of manure on water quality,
- manure application requirements of the law,
- the relative concentration of nutrients in different types of storage structures,
- how to determine if a manure management plan is reasonable and accurate (e.g., know general application rates from different types of storage),
- what records must be kept, and
- what to do if a manure release occurs or is likely to occur.

If you fail the test, you may retake it on a different day or attend a training course to qualify for certification.

## Certificate Renewal

**Commercial applicators** need to renew their certification and licenses every year by passing a test or by attending three hours of continuing education.

**Confinement site applicators** must renew their certification every three years by passing a test or attending two hours of continuing education each year of the three-year period.

### To renew a certificate:

- send the renewal request on the DNR form prior to or postmarked by the certificate expiration date,
- include renewal fee of \$50, and
- include proof of a passing the examination or attending the continuing education course(s).

## Requirements for Manure Applicators

All applicators must comply with requirements for land application, including the minimum separation distances. They must also follow the manure management plan (if a plan is required). And, they must report any releases to their DNR field office.

**Recordkeeping requirements:** Commercial manure applicators must maintain the following records for three years:

- a copy of the livestock owner's instructions for manure application,
- dates that manure was applied or sold,
- the manure application rate, and
- location of fields where manure was applied.

Confinement site manure applicators who are required to submit manure management plans must maintain the following records for a minimum of

three years following application (or the length of the crop rotation, if greater):

- methods of application,
- dates when the manure was applied or sold,
- location of the field and number of acres where the manure was applied, and
- the manure application rate.

### Commercial applicators' equipment requirements:

- do not use manure tanks and equipment to haul hazardous or toxic wastes,
- do not use tanks or equipment in a way that would contaminate drinking water, or endanger the food chain or public health,
- maintain watertight connections on all pumps and associated piping,
- prevent direct connections between a drinking water source and the tank or equipment,
- display the certification numbers of the certified applicator in three-inch (3") or larger letters and numbers on the side of the tank or vehicle, and
- prominently display the name and address of the certified applicator on the side of the tank or vehicle.

## Disciplinary Actions

Certified commercial and confinement site applicators can lose their certification or be put on probation if they:

- violate state law or rules,
- fail to maintain the required application records or reports, or
- knowingly make false statements, representations or certification to the DNR.

An applicator whose certification is revoked cannot apply dry or liquid manure to the land. The applicator may reapply for certification after two years and will have to pass an examination. Failure to become certified or applying manure without a certificate can result in an administrative order, a civil penalty or a court action.

### For More Information

DNR Field Office 1, Manchester	319-927-2640
DNR Field Office 2, Mason City	515-424-4073
DNR Field Office 3, Spencer	712-262-4177
DNR Field Office 4, Atlantic	712-243-1934
DNR Field Office 5, Des Moines	515-281-9069
DNR Field Office 6, Washington	319-653-2135
Check the DNR website at	
< <a href="http://www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/organiza/epd/index.htm">http://www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/organiza/epd/index.htm</a> >	
Construction Permits	515-281-8877