Western Lake Erie Basin Nutrient Application Restrictions

Relevant Sections of Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code

1/31/2016
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Relevant Code

Fertilizer Application

ORC 905.326 Application of fertilizer in western basin.

(A)

(1) Except as provided in division (B) of this section, no person in the western basin shall surface apply fertilizer under either of the following circumstances:

(a) On snow-covered or frozen soil;

(b) When the top two inches of soil are saturated from precipitation.

(2) Except as provided in division (B) of this section, no person in the western basin shall surface apply fertilizer in a granular form when the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a fifty per cent chance of precipitation exceeding one inch in a twelve-hour period.

(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply if a person in the western basin applies fertilizer under any of the following circumstances:

(1) The fertilizer is injected into the ground.

(2) The fertilizer is incorporated within twenty-four hours of surface application.

(3) The fertilizer is applied onto a growing crop.

(C)

(1) Upon receiving a complaint by any person or upon receiving information that would indicate a violation of this section, the director or the director’s designee may investigate or make inquiries into any alleged failure to comply with this section.

(2) After receiving a complaint by any person or upon receiving information that would indicate a violation of this section, the director or the director’s designee may enter at reasonable times on any private or public property to inspect and investigate conditions relating to any such alleged failure to comply with this section.

(3) If an individual denies access to the director or the director’s designee, the director may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the premises is located for a search warrant authorizing access to the premises for the purposes of this section.
(4) The court shall issue the search warrant for the purposes requested if there is probable cause to believe that the person is not in compliance with this section. The finding of probable cause may be based on hearsay, provided that there is a reasonable basis for believing that the source of the hearsay is credible.

(D) This section does not affect any restrictions established in Chapter 903. of the Revised Code or otherwise apply to those entities or facilities that are permitted as concentrated animal feeding facilities under that chapter.

(E) As used in this section, "western basin" means land in the state that is located in the following watersheds identified by the specified United States geological survey hydrologic unit code:

1. St. Marys watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100004;
2. Auglaize watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100007;
3. Blanchard watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100008;
4. Sandusky watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100011;
5. Cedar-Portage watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100010;
6. Lower Maumee watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100009;
7. Upper Maumee watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100005;
8. Tiffin watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100006;
9. St. Joseph watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100003;
10. Ottawa watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100001;
11. River Raisin watershed, hydrologic unit code 04100002.

(F) Notwithstanding section 905.31 of the Revised Code, as used in this section, "fertilizer" means nitrogen or phosphorous.

Added by 131st General Assembly File No. TBD, SB 1, §1, eff. 7/3/2015.
ORC 905.327 Penalty for unlawful application of fertilizer

(A) The director of agriculture may assess a civil penalty against a person that violates section 905.326 of the Revised Code. The director may impose a civil penalty only if the director affords the person an opportunity for an adjudication hearing under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to challenge the director's determination that the person violated section 905.326 of the Revised Code. The person may waive the right to an adjudication hearing.

(B) If the opportunity for an adjudication hearing is waived or if, after an adjudication hearing, the director determines that a violation has occurred or is occurring, the director may issue an order requiring compliance with section 905.326 of the Revised Code and assess the civil penalty. The order and the assessment of the civil penalty may be appealed in accordance with section 119.12 of the Revised Code.

(C) A person that has violated section 905.326 of the Revised Code shall pay a civil penalty in an amount established in rules. Each day during which fertilizer is applied in violation of section 905.326 of the Revised Code constitutes a separate violation.

(D) The director shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code that establish the amount of the civil penalty assessed under this section. The civil penalty shall not be more than ten thousand dollars for each violation.

(E) For purposes of this section, "rule" means a rule adopted under division (D) of this section.

Added by 131st General Assembly File No. TBD, SB 1, §1, eff. 7/3/2015.
OAC 901:5-4-07 Civil Penalties

(A) Minor violations are events of noncompliance with section 905.326 of the Revised Code that occur only when all of the following parameters are met:

1. The nutrient value of the fertilizer application is less than ten thousand pounds of nitrogen or six thousand pounds of phosphorous;
2. The fertilizer application does not pose a significant risk of harm to public health or the environment; and
3. The fertilizer application has not resulted in any discharge of fertilizer that enters the water of the state.

(B) Major violations are events of noncompliance with section 905.326 of the Revised Code that occur only when any of the following parameters are met:

1. The nutrient value of the fertilizer application is equal to or more than ten thousand pounds of nitrogen or six thousand pounds of phosphorous;
2. The fertilizer application poses a significant risk of harm to public health or the environment;
3. The fertilizer application has resulted in a discharge of fertilizer that enters the water of the state.

(C) Failure to take corrective action as specified by the director or the director's designated representative for any minor violation may be considered a major violation of this rule.

(D) The director may assess a civil penalty for a minor violation of up to two thousand dollars for each day of noncompliance with section 905.326 of the Revised Code.

(E) The director may assess a civil penalty for a major violation of up to ten thousand dollars for each day of noncompliance with section 905.326 of the Revised Code.

(F) All money paid under divisions (D) and (E) of this rule shall be deposited into the agricultural pollution abatement fund.
Manure Application

ORC 939.08 Application of manure in the western basin.

(A) Except as provided in division (B) of this section, no person in the western basin shall surface apply manure under any of the following circumstances:

(1) On snow-covered or frozen soil;

(2) When the top two inches of soil are saturated from precipitation;

(3) When the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a fifty per cent chance of precipitation exceeding one-half inch in a twenty-four-hour period.

(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply if a person in the western basin applies manure under any of the following circumstances:

(1) The manure is injected into the ground.

(2) The manure is incorporated within twenty-four hours of surface application.

(3) The manure is applied onto a growing crop.

(4) In the event of an emergency, the director of agriculture or the director's designee provides written consent and the manure application is made in accordance with procedures established in the United States department of agriculture natural resources conservation service practice standard code 590 prepared for this state.

(C)

(1) Upon receiving a complaint by any person or upon receiving information that would indicate a violation of this section, the director or the director's designee may investigate or make inquiries into any alleged failure to comply with this section.

(2) After receiving a complaint by any person or upon receiving information that would indicate a violation of this section, the director or the director's designee may enter at reasonable times on any private or public property to inspect and investigate conditions relating to any such alleged failure to comply with this section.

(3) If an individual denies access to the individual's property, the director may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the premises is located for a search warrant authorizing access to the premises for the purposes of this section.

(4) The court shall issue the search warrant for the purposes requested if there is probable cause to believe that the person is not in compliance with this section. The
finding of probable cause may be based on hearsay, provided that there is a reasonable basis for believing that the source of the hearsay is credible.

(D) This section does not affect any restrictions established in Chapter 903. of the Revised Code or otherwise apply to those entities or facilities that are permitted as concentrated animal feeding facilities under that chapter.

(E) As used in this section, "western basin" has the same meaning as in section 905.326 of the Revised Code.

Added by 131st General Assembly File No. TBD, HB 64, §101.01, eff. 1/1/2016.
ORC 939.09 Penalty for unlawful application of manure in the western basin.

(A) Except as provided in division (D) of this section, the director of agriculture may assess a civil penalty against a person that violates section 939.08 of the Revised Code. The director may impose a civil penalty only if the director affords the person an opportunity for an adjudication hearing under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to challenge the director's determination that the person violated section 939.08 of the Revised Code. The person may waive the right to an adjudication hearing.

(B) If the opportunity for an adjudication hearing is waived or if, after an adjudication hearing, the director determines that a violation has occurred or is occurring, the director may issue an order requiring compliance with section 939.08 of the Revised Code and assess the civil penalty. The order and the assessment of the civil penalty may be appealed in accordance with section 119.12 of the Revised Code.

(C) A person that has violated section 939.08 of the Revised Code shall pay a civil penalty in an amount established in rules. Each day during which manure is applied in violation of section 939.08 of the Revised Code constitutes a separate violation.

(D)

(1) The owner or operator of a small agricultural operation or a medium agricultural operation may apply to the director for an exemption from the prohibition established in division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code. If the director or the director's designee determines that it is appropriate, the director or the director's designee may issue such an exemption as follows:

   (a) For a medium agricultural operation, for a period ending not later than one year after July 3, 2015;

   (b) For a small agricultural operation, for a period ending not later than two years after July 3, 2015.

(2) The director shall establish the form of the application for an exemption in rules adopted under division (E) of this section.

(3) The director or the director's designee shall approve or deny an application for an exemption submitted under division (D)(1) of this section not later than thirty days after an application has been submitted.

(4) The director or the director's designee may deny an application for an exemption or revoke an exemption approved under division (D)(3) of this section if the director or the director's designee determines that the owner or operator is not in substantial compliance with this chapter and rules adopted under it other than violating division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code.
(5) An owner or operator that has been issued an exemption under this section is not subject to civil penalties assessed for a violation of division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code during the exemption period.

(6) An owner or operator that has an initial application for an exemption that is pending the director’s review is not subject to civil penalties assessed for a violation of division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code.

(E) The director shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code that establish both of the following:

(1) The amount of the civil penalty assessed under this section. The civil penalty shall be not more than ten thousand dollars for each violation.

(2) Requirements governing the application form for an exemption submitted under division (D) of this section. The rules shall require the form to include all of the following:

(a) A statement from the applicant affirming that the applicant understands the provisions of sections 939.08 and 939.09 of the Revised Code;

(b) A statement from the applicant affirming that the applicant understands that the applicant must be in compliance with procedures established in the United States department of agriculture natural resources conservation service practice standard code 590 prepared for this state except procedures that are in conflict with this section and section 939.08 of the Revised Code;

(c) A place for the applicant to explain the reasons for the necessity for the exemption;

(d) A place on the form that provides information on programs that may assist an applicant with methods to comply with division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code;

(e) A place on the form that provides the applicant an opportunity to request technical assistance or information from the director or the applicable soil and water conservation district to assist the applicant to comply with division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code.

(F) Money collected from civil penalties assessed under this section shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the agricultural pollution abatement fund created in section 939.10 of the Revised Code.

(G) As used in this section:
(1) "Small agricultural operation" means an agricultural operation in the western basin that stables or confines fewer than any of the numbers of animals specified in divisions (Q)(1)(a) to (m) of section 903.01 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Medium agricultural operation" means an agricultural operation in the western basin that stables or confines any of the numbers of animals specified in divisions (Q)(1)(a) to (m) of section 903.01 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Western basin" has the same meaning as in section 905.326 of the Revised Code.

Added by 131st General Assembly File No. TBD, HB 64, §101.01, eff. 1/1/2016.
OAC 901:13-1-10 Exemption form

(A) An application for an exemption from the requirements in division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code shall be made on a form approved by the director. The application may contain any information approved by the director, but must include the following information:

(1) The printed name, mailing address, city, county, township, telephone number and signature of the individual submitting the application.

(2) The street address, city, county, and township of the applicant’s farming operation in the western basin of Lake Erie, if different from the mailing address provided in division (A)(1) of this section.

(3) The number and type of livestock stabled or confined on the farming operation in the western basin of Lake Erie.

(4) An identification of whether the manure type produced on the farming operation is solid or liquid.

(5) The farm’s estimated number of days of manure storage capacity.

(6) An acknowledgement of whether the operation has been found to be in violation of any pollution laws within the last two years.

(7) An aerial photograph or map showing all fields where manure will be applied during the period of exemption.

(8) A summary explaining the necessity for requesting an exemption from division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code.

(9) An affirmation that the applicant understands the provisions of sections 939.08 and 939.09 of the Revised Code.

(10) An affirmation that the applicant understands they must be in compliance with procedures established in the United States department of agriculture natural resources conservation service standard code 590 prepared for this state except procedures that are in conflict with sections 939.08 and 939.09 of the Revised Code.

(11) An acknowledgement by the local soil and water conservation district that the form has been reviewed by the district and is being submitted to the director.

(12) Information on programs that may assist an applicant in complying with division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code.
(13) A place on the form that provides the applicant an opportunity to request technical assistance or information from the director or the applicable soil and water conservation district to assist the applicant to comply with division (A) of section 939.08 of the Revised Code.

(B) For an application to be deemed as having been submitted in accordance with 939.09(D)(3), it must be received by the director.

(C) For an application to be deemed complete, the application must contain all information required by this section. Any application failing to meet the requirements of this rule may be denied by the director.
(A) Minor violations are events of noncompliance with section 939.08 of the Revised Code that occur only when all of the following parameters are met:

(1) The total volume of the manure application is less than three hundred and fifty tons of solid manure or one hundred thousand gallons of liquid manure;

(2) The manure application does not pose a significant risk of harm to public health or the environment; and,

(3) The manure application has not resulted in any discharge of manure that enters the waters of the state.

(B) Major violations are events of noncompliance with section 939.08 of the Revised Code that occur when any of the following parameters are met:

(1) The total volume of the manure application is equal to or more than three hundred and fifty tons of solid manure, or one hundred thousand gallons of liquid manure.

(2) The manure application poses a significant risk of harm to public health or the environment.

(3) The manure application has resulted in a discharge of manure that enters the waters of the state.

(C) Failure to take corrective action as specified by the director or the director's designated representative for any minor violation may be considered a major violation of this rule.

(D) The director may assess a civil penalty for a minor violation of up to two thousand dollars for each day of noncompliance with section 939.08 of the Revised Code.

(E) The director may assess a civil penalty for a major violation of up to ten thousand dollars for each day of noncompliance with section 939.08 of the Revised Code.

(F) All money paid under divisions (D) and (E) of this rule shall be deposited into the agricultural pollution abatement fund.
Referenced Code

ORC 903.01 Concentrated animal feeding facility definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(A) "Agricultural animal" means any animal generally used for food or in the production of food, including cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, poultry, and swine; horses; alpacas; llamas; and any other animal included by the director of agriculture by rule. "Agricultural animal" does not include fish or other aquatic animals regardless of whether they are raised at fish hatcheries, fish farms, or other facilities that raise aquatic animals.

(B) "Animal feeding facility" means a lot, building, or structure where both of the following conditions are met:

(1) Agricultural animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained there for a total of forty-five days or more in any twelve-month period.

(2) Crops, vegetative forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot, building, or structure.

"Animal feeding facility" also includes land that is owned or leased by or otherwise is under the control of the owner or operator of the lot, building, or structure and on which manure originating from agricultural animals in the lot, building, or structure or a production area is or may be applied.

Two or more animal feeding facilities under common ownership shall be considered to be a single animal feeding facility for the purposes of this chapter if they adjoin each other or if they use a common area or system for the disposal of manure.

(C) "Animal feeding operation" has the same meaning as "animal feeding facility."

(D) "Cattle" includes, but is not limited to, heifers, steers, bulls, and cow and calf pairs.

(E) "Concentrated animal feeding facility" means an animal feeding facility with a total design capacity equal to or more than the number of animals specified in any of the categories in division (M) of this section.

(F) "Concentrated animal feeding operation" means an animal feeding facility that complies with one of the following:

(1) Has a total design capacity equal to or more than the number of animals specified in any of the categories in division (M) of this section;
(2) Satisfies the criteria in division (M), (Q), or (FF) of this section;

(3) Is designated by the director of agriculture as a medium or small concentrated animal feeding operation pursuant to rules.

(G) "Discharge" means to add from a point source to waters of the state.


(I) "Finalized," with respect to the programs required under division (A)(1) of section 903.02 and division (A)(1) of section 903.03 of the Revised Code, means that all rules that are necessary for the administration of this chapter have been adopted and all employees of the department of agriculture that are necessary for the administration of this chapter have been employed.

(J) "General permit" has the meaning that is established in rules.

(K) "Individual permit" has the meaning that is established in rules.

(L) "Installation permit" means a permit for the installation or modification of a disposal system or any part of a disposal system issued by the director of environmental protection under division (J)(1) of section 6111.03 of the Revised Code.

(M) "Large concentrated animal feeding operation" means an animal feeding facility that stables or confines at least the number of animals specified in any of the following categories:

(1) Seven hundred mature dairy cattle whether milked or dry;

(2) One thousand veal calves;

(3) One thousand cattle other than mature dairy cattle or veal calves;

(4) Two thousand five hundred swine that each weigh fifty-five pounds or more;

(5) Ten thousand swine that each weigh less than fifty-five pounds;

(6) Five hundred horses;

(7) Ten thousand sheep or lambs;

(8) Fifty-five thousand turkeys;

(9) Thirty thousand laying hens or broilers if the animal feeding facility uses a liquid manure handling system;
(10) One hundred twenty-five thousand chickens, other than laying hens, if the animal feeding facility uses a manure handling system that is not a liquid manure handling system;

(11) Eighty-two thousand laying hens if the animal feeding facility uses a manure handling system that is not a liquid manure handling system;

(12) Thirty thousand ducks if the animal feeding facility uses a manure handling system that is not a liquid manure handling system;

(13) Five thousand ducks if the animal feeding facility uses a liquid manure handling system.

(N) "Major concentrated animal feeding facility" means a concentrated animal feeding facility with a total design capacity of more than ten times the number of animals specified in any of the categories in division (M) of this section.

(O) "Manure" means any of the following wastes used in or resulting from the production of agricultural animals or direct agricultural products such as milk or eggs: animal excreta, discarded products, bedding, process waste water, process generated waste water, waste feed, silage drainage, and compost products resulting from mortality composting or the composting of animal excreta.

(P) "Manure storage or treatment facility" means any excavated, diked, or walled structure or combination of structures designed for the biological stabilization, holding, or storage of manure.

(Q) "Medium concentrated animal feeding operation" means an animal feeding facility that satisfies both of the following:

(1) The facility stables or confines the number of animals specified in any of the following categories:

(a) Two hundred to six hundred ninety-nine mature dairy cattle whether milked or dry;

(b) Three hundred to nine hundred ninety-nine veal calves;

(c) Three hundred to nine hundred ninety-nine cattle other than mature dairy cattle or veal calves;

(d) Seven hundred fifty to two thousand four hundred ninety-nine swine that each weigh fifty-five pounds or more;

(e) Three thousand to nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine swine that each weigh less than fifty-five pounds;
(f) One hundred fifty to four hundred ninety-nine horses;

(g) Three thousand to nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine sheep or lambs;

(h) Sixteen thousand five hundred to fifty-four thousand nine hundred ninety-nine turkeys;

(i) Nine thousand to twenty-nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine laying hens or broilers if the animal feeding facility uses a liquid manure handling system;

(j) Thirty-seven thousand five hundred to one hundred twenty-four thousand ninety-nine chickens, other than laying hens, if the animal feeding facility uses a manure handling system that is not a liquid manure handling system;

(k) Twenty-five thousand to eighty-one thousand nine hundred ninety-nine laying hens if the animal feeding facility uses a manure handling system that is not a liquid manure handling system;

(l) Ten thousand to twenty-nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine ducks if the animal feeding facility uses a manure handling system that is not a liquid manure handling system;

(m) One thousand five hundred to four thousand nine hundred ninety-nine ducks if the animal feeding facility uses a liquid manure handling system.

(2) The facility does one of the following:

(a) Discharges pollutants into waters of the United States through a ditch constructed by humans, a flushing system constructed by humans, or another similar device constructed by humans;

(b) Discharges pollutants directly into waters of the United States that originate outside of and that pass over, across, or through the facility or otherwise come into direct contact with the animals at the facility.

"Medium concentrated animal feeding operation" includes an animal feeding facility that is designated by the director as a medium concentrated animal feeding operation pursuant to rules.

(R) "Mortality composting" means the controlled decomposition of organic solid material consisting of dead animals that stabilizes the organic fraction of the material.

(S) "NPDES permit" means a permit issued under the national pollutant discharge elimination system established in section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and includes the
renewal of such a permit. "NPDES permit" includes the federally enforceable provisions of a permit to operate into which NPDES permit provisions have been incorporated.

(T) "Permit" includes an initial, renewed, or modified permit to install, permit to operate, NPDES permit, and installation permit unless expressly stated otherwise.

(U) "Permit to install" means a permit issued under section 903.02 of the Revised Code.

(V) "Permit to operate" means a permit issued or renewed under section 903.03 of the Revised Code and includes incorporated NPDES permit provisions, if applicable.

(W) "Person" has the same meaning as in section 1.59 of the Revised Code and also includes the state, any political subdivision of the state, any interstate body created by compact, the United States, or any department, agency, or instrumentality of any of those entities.

(X) "Point source" has the same meaning as in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(Y) "Pollutant" means dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, filter backwash, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials except those regulated under the "Atomic Energy Act of 1954," 68 Stat. 919, 42 U.S.C. 2011, as amended, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste, including manure, discharged into water. "Pollutant" does not include either of the following:

(1) Sewage from vessels;

(2) Water, gas, or other material that is injected into a well to facilitate production of oil or gas, or water derived in association with oil and gas production and disposed of in a well, if the well that is used either to facilitate production or for disposal purposes is approved by the state and if the state determines that the injection or disposal will not result in the degradation of ground or surface water resources.

(Z) "Process generated waste water" means water that is directly or indirectly used in the operation of an animal feeding facility for any of the following:

(1) Spillage or overflow from animal watering systems;

(2) Washing, cleaning, or flushing pens, barns, manure pits, or other areas of an animal feeding facility;

(3) Direct contact swimming, washing, or spray cooling of animals;

(4) Dust control.
(AA) "Process waste water" means any process generated waste water and any precipitation, including rain or snow, that comes into contact with manure, litter, bedding, or any other raw material or intermediate or final material or product used in or resulting from the production of animals or direct products such as milk or eggs.

(BB) "Production area" means any of the following components of an animal feeding facility:

1. Animal confinement areas, including, but not limited to, open lots, housed lots, feedlots, confinement houses, stall barns, free stall barns, milkrooms, milking centers, cowyards, barnyards, medication pens, animal walkways, and stables;

2. Manure storage areas, including, but not limited to, manure storage or treatment facilities;

3. Raw material storage areas, including, but not limited to, feed silos, silage bunkers, commodity buildings, and bedding materials;

4. Waste containment areas, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
   a. An egg washing or egg processing facility;
   b. An area used in the storage, handling, treatment, or disposal of mortalities;
   c. Settling basins, runoff ponds, liquid impoundments, and areas within berms and diversions that are designed and maintained to separate uncontaminated storm water runoff from contaminated water and to contain and treat contaminated storm water runoff.

(CC) "Public meeting" means a nonadversarial public hearing at which a person may present written or oral statements for the director of agriculture's consideration and includes public hearings held under section 6111.12 of the Revised Code.

/DD) "Rule" means a rule adopted under section 903.10 of the Revised Code.

(EE) "Small concentrated animal feeding operation" means an animal feeding facility that is not a large or medium concentrated animal feeding operation and that is designated by the director as a small concentrated animal feeding operation pursuant to rules.

(FF) "Waters of the state" has the same meaning as in section 6111.01 of the Revised Code.

Amended by 131st General Assembly File No. TBD, HB 64, §101.01, eff. 9/29/2015.

Amended by 128th General Assembly File No.12, HB 363, §1, eff. 12/22/2009.

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