

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

A Quick Update on Nutrient Management

ISSUE NO 2. JANUARY 2008

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2008 Certified Nutrient Management Meeting

ORGANIZATION FOR THIS YEAR'S MEETINGS IS WELL UNDERWAY FOR MARCH 2008

The winter meeting season is upon us again. Similar to last year, we are planning to hold three Nutrient Management meetings across the province:

- March 4 - Guelph
- March 18 - Kemptville
- March 25 - London.

This year, a committee of consultants and OMAFRA staff worked together to develop the meeting agenda. The committee provided input into the additional information consultants require and ways to make these meetings as valuable as possible.

Topics for this year's meeting include:

- Manure Application Technologies
- Update on Ministry of Environment Inspections
- Contingency Planning — Do They Make a Difference?
- Water Quality in Ontario
- NMN 2: What You Need to Know.

Registration for the meetings begins in January 2008. Call the Agricultural Information Contact Center 1-877-424-1300 to register for the date and location that works best for you.

By Matt Wilson

Interest Created in Anaerobic Digesters

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (NMS) OR CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL (C OF A) FOR ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS

The construction or expansion of any anaerobic digesters on an agricultural operation requires a building permit, whether it treats on-farm or off-farm material.

The requirement for a NMS or a C of A depends on the type and quantity of material fed to the anaerobic digester as indicated below:

1. You require an approved NMS to get a building permit for the construction or expansion of a digester if:
 - a. An agricultural operation with less than 1,000 (Nutrient Units) NU feed manure to a digester, or
 - b. An agricultural operation with less than 1,000 NU feed on-farm and off-material, but within the following parameters:
 - No more than 5,000 m³ of off farm materials received per year
 - No more than 100 m³ materials, other than farm feed, are received in any given day
 - Off-farm material represents less than 25 per cent of the total volume fed to the digester
 - Manure represents at least 50 per cent of the total amount of on-farm material fed to the digester.

2. Agricultural operations that propose to treat manure and/or off-farm material with a digester outside of the above limits must obtain a certificate of approval prior to construction.
3. Agricultural operations with existing digesters that consider treating off-farm material within the limits stated above, under paragraph 1b, must have an approved NMS prior to receiving any off-farm material
4. Digesters that are intended to treat on-farm material, other than manure, such as energy crops, do NOT need a NMS or C of A, but require a building permit

MINIMUM DISTANCE SEPARATION FOR ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS

When preparing a NMS for the construction of an Anaerobic Digester, you may be asked about the Minimum Separation Distances (MDS II) guidelines for Anaerobic Digesters.

The MDS Implementation Guidelines (Publication 707) indicates the required MDS II separations for an Anaerobic Digesters (AD) and Co-Substrate Input Tanks (CSIT), regardless of size or type, are as follow:

- 125 m from Type A land uses (lower density of human occupancy, habitation and activity)
- 250 m from Type B land uses (higher density of human occupancy, habitation and activity)
- 125 m to the nearest neighbour's house
- 13 m to the nearest lot line, and
- 25 m to the nearest road allowance.

By Benoît Lebeau and Phyllis MacMaster

New Course Starting January 2008

INTRODUCTION TO NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT IS REPLACING THE FUNDAMENTALS OF NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT STARTING IN JANUARY 2008

This course outlines the basic agronomic principles that are embedded in the Nutrient Management Act and Regulations. You will be given information on:

- Situations, characteristics and practices that could contribute to nutrient loss and environmental damage
- Ways to recognize opportunities to maximize the use of the prescribed materials generated on-farm
- Ways to use Best Management Practices that can reduce nutrient loss and maximize crop uptake of nutrients
- Key terms and practices such as the N-Index, P-Index, red flags, and nutrient loss
- How to use the knowledge shared in the course on farm operations and in the preparation of nutrient management strategies and plans.

This course is a requirement for the Agricultural Operation Strategy or Plan Development Certificate and the Agricultural Operation Planning Certificate. We highly recommend you attend this course before taking the Regulation and Protocols course.

Producers applying for an Agricultural Operations Planning Certificate can use a peer reviewed 3rd edition Environmental Farm Plan as an equivalency to this course until May 1, 2008. In addition farm operators need to pass a quiz for the equivalency.

Call the Nutrient Management Information Line number listed at the end of the newsletter to make arrangements for writing the quiz at your local OMAFRA Resource Centre.

Check out the OMAFRA website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/cert/courses.htm> for scheduled dates.

By Phyllis McMaster

Question from a Consultant

HOW DO I GET A COPY OF NMAN 2? AND WHEN DO I HAVE TO START USING IT?

The new NMAN 2 is scheduled to be released at the end of January. Because this is a whole new program, when we release the new program, you need to get a hard copy from your local OMAFRA office. It will not be available by download.

The approvals unit will be accepting submissions from the R4 version of NMAN and from the new NMAN 2 program. Submissions from the R4 version of NMAN will continue to be accepted until at least April, but you are encouraged to start using the new program as soon as it is released. Training is available on the new software by taking the How to Prepare a Nutrient Management Strategy/Plan course and there will also be a session at this year's consultants meeting.

Dates scheduled for How Prepare a Nutrient Management Strategy/Plan Course are:

- January 30 and 31 – Ottawa
- February 27 and 28 – Guelph
- March 5 and 6 – Ottawa (French)
- March 12 and 13 – London March 26 and 27 – Hanover

By Matt Wilson

Tip from Approvals

NEW NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY APPROVAL VERSUS AN AMENDMENT

We often get questions about when a phased-in farm operation needs a new approval of their Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) or would an amendment to the current approved NMS be sufficient to meet the requirements of the Nutrient Management Regulation.

A phased in operation that is planning to build another structure to house animals or store manure that is not in the current NMS has two options to consider.

1. Prepare a new NMS with the proposed project included and submit it to OMAFRA for approval.
2. Amend the current NMS to include the new construction project. **The key to this option is that the amendment must be requested before the building permit is applied for.**

The information required to amend the NMS is the same as the information required to approve an NMS. The NMS reviewer will review the proposed amendment and issue an Amended Letter of Approval to the applicant outlining the reasons for the amendment and attaching the required documents to support the changes approved.

A new NMS approval is necessary when a phased-in farm proposes to construct a facility to house animals or store manure, and at the same time proposes additions to or the removal of property from the farm unit, especially where the changes involve the identified generating properties declared in the previous NMS.

OCCASIONS WHERE A NEW NMS COULD BE THE PREFERRED OPTION

1. An operation proposes to build a new barn to replace an existing one that was in the original NMS approval
2. An operation proposes to expand the barn in the existing NMS.

A new approval for a NMS when proposing a new project or a change makes the proposed changes very clear to the municipality and to an inspector. Another benefit of a new approval for a Nutrient Management Strategy is it resets the clock on the approval as the NMS will be in force for another five years from the Date of Approval.

OCCASIONS WHERE AN AMENDMENT COULD BE THE PREFERRED OPTION

1. An operation receives an approval for a NMS with a manure storage and before the building permit is issued the farmer decides to build a larger or smaller storage
2. An operation receives an approval for a NMS for a new livestock barn to house 100 head but before the building permit is received the farmer decides to build for 120 head

The one benefit of an NMS Amendment is it can be a simpler process for a minor change to the original approval, providing the amendment is requested before the building permit is issued by the Municipality.

By Jim Arnold and Dale McComb

Dates to Remember:

January 16-17 — Broker and Land Application Course Business Owners Course — Casselman

January 30-31 — How to Prepare a NMSP Using NMAN Course — Ottawa

6 et 7 février 2008 — Règlement et protocoles — Alfred

February 14 — Maxville Dairy Day

February 15 — Kemptville Dairy Day

February 21 — Eastern Ontario Crop Conference – Kemptville

5 et 6 mars 2008 — Élaboration d'une SGEN et d'un PGEN (à l'aide du logiciel NMAN) — Ottawa

March 11-13 – Ottawa Valley Farm Show

March 18 -- Nutrient Management Consultants Meeting - Kemptville

19 et 20 mars 2008 — Introduction à la gestion des éléments nutritifs — Casselman

April 2-5 — Growing the Margins: Energy, Bioproducts and Byproducts from Farm and Food Sectors Conference and Exhibition
www.gtmconf.ca

March 31 to April 3 – Large Herd Operators Tour to Eastern Ontario/Quebec

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Phyllis MacMaster
Environmental Specialist
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and
Rural Affairs
Kemptville ON K0G 1J0
Tel: 613-258-8297
Fax: 613-258-8392
E-mail: phyllis.macmaster@ontario.ca

Nutrient Management Information Line: 1-866-242-4460

E-mail: nman.omafra@ontario.ca

www.ontario.ca/omafra