

# GRANT COUNTY

## LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

150 West Alona Lane, Suite #1, Lancaster, WI 53813 608/723-6377 X3

TO: Grant County Landowners Planning on Building an Animal Waste Storage Facility

The Grant County Land and Water Conservation Committee and the Grant County Board passed an ***Animal Waste Storage and Nutrient Utilization Ordinance*** in May, 1999. The purpose of the ordinance is to ensure that all manure storage facilities will not cause immediate or future pollution of surface and groundwater. It assures your family, neighbors and livestock will have a safe water supply.

As a permit applicant, ***it is your responsibility*** to know the requirements of the ordinance. Briefly, it requires that any new facility or alterations to an existing facility be built according to minimum statewide standards, and that plans be reviewed and approved by the Grant Co. Land and Water Conservation Dept. (LWCD) before and during construction. It is essentially a building code to ensure all manure storage structures are designed, constructed and managed properly.

The ***first step*** in obtaining a permit should be an investigation of the soils to a depth at least five feet below the bottom of the proposed facility. Soil type significantly affects the type of system that is practicable. A soils investigation should ***always*** be done before any time is spent on the design. ***The permitting process does take time—plan ahead.*** Our office is allowed forty-five (45) days after all the required information is submitted to review and approve a plan. ***Inspection during construction is also a requirement of the ordinance.*** This assures that the contractor(s) are building according to the agreed upon standards and specifications.

At the same time your construction plan is being developed, you should begin work on your ***Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)***. A NMP is also needed for an animal waste storage permit. Contact your agronomist as soon as possible to allow them plenty of time to begin developing your plan. Also, to make sure that the manure you are spreading is not running off your fields, you need to be operating under a basic farm plan. This means that all your fields are meeting the ***tolerable soil loss*** for the soils present. Checking with your soil conservationist will let you know what your operating plan is and changes that could be made.

Please contact me ***before*** you begin designing your facility. Doing so will ensure that your manure storage facility is constructed properly, on time and at lowest cost. I have enclosed the *Application for Animal Waste Storage Facility Permit*, an *Animal Waste Storage Facility Plan Checklist*, a USDA publication, *Manure Management Systems: Things to Consider*, and a *Whole-Farm Nutrient Management Checklist* for your use.

Thank you for your cooperation,



Lynda M. Wilburn  
County Technician  
Grant County Land & Water Conservation Department