

Do now

Records: Keeping records of your farm activities will help show that you are meeting the expectations of the new regulation. Records are not submitted to anyone but are required to be kept at least 5 years as your own back up and could be requested during an inspection by provincial environmental protection staff. If requested, you should be able to provide records within 5 days. Relevant records include:

- Animal numbers and the amount of manure collected on the farm. Records should indicate how much manure is used on the farm and any amount exported off the farm (in m³).
- If manure leaves the farm operation, records are required to document the overall amount, and if in lots of 5 m³ (6.5 yards³) or greater include a log with lot size and receiver information.
- If you have manure stored temporarily in the field, keep a record of the date you started, location, material, and keep a weekly monitoring record.
- Manure or fertilizer that is applied for hay or pasture (how much, where, and when).

High-risk areas. Determine if you are in a high-risk area and what actions may need to be taken. High-risk areas include high-precipitation areas, vulnerable aquifer recharge areas, and phosphorus affected areas. An interactive map is available [online](#) where you can enter your address.

Storing Manure: Producers must prevent leachate, contaminated runoff, or manure itself from escaping any manure storage and going into watercourses or crossing property boundaries. If your farm is in a [high precipitation area](#) and/or a [vulnerable aquifer recharge area](#), there may be some additional Code requirements for practices such as temporary field storage of manure. After cleaning out pens, watch where you pile manure. Manure needs to be either in a permanent storage structure or in a temporary pile.

Permanent Manure Storage: If the location of the field storage never changes, permanent storage structure requirements apply:

- Permanent structures are not necessarily brick and mortar constructions but have to be able to ensure that the code requirements are met.
- If you are in a [vulnerable aquifer recharge area](#), a “protective base” is required as part of the permanent storage structure. A protective base is typically a concrete pad. A protective base is less commonly an engineered (compacted) soil liner, most soils would not be considered a protective base.
- There are minimum setback distances from the edge of the storage to water sources: 30 meters to a drinking water source and 15 meters to a watercourse that isn’t a drinking water source.

Temporary Field Storage of Manure: Temporary piles are meant to be temporary (≤ 7 months). If not, a permanent structure should be used for storage.

- Location matters. Temporary piles must not be in low lying areas that may be flooded seasonally or closer than 30 m to a watercourse or drinking water source.
- Keep temporary piles off coarse-textured soil if you are in a [vulnerable aquifer recharge area](#).
- In [high precipitation areas](#) cover temporary piles from October to April.

- Change where your temporary piles are located - using the same area continuously will cause nutrient buildup. After a temporary pile is removed from an area, do not use that area again for at least 3 years and re-establish grass or another type of vegetation to remove any nutrients that may be leftover in the soil.

Livestock Areas: Different livestock areas are described with requirements that become more stringent as the environmental risk associated with the area increases. For all areas the requirements aim to protect clean water from leachate, contaminated runoff, and manure itself. The Code defines and includes requirements for confined livestock areas, feedlots, seasonal feeding areas, grazing areas, and temporary holding areas.

Access to watercourses

If animals have direct access to a watercourse in seasonal feeding areas, grazing areas, and temporary holding areas, ensure that measures are in place to:

- minimize trampling and erosion along the watercourse
- minimize contaminated runoff and manure from entering the watercourse

The Code does not include specific practices, however fencing, off stream watering, or limiting watering points are measures that would discourage loitering and help meet this expectation.

Confined livestock areas

A confined livestock area is an outdoor area where animals are confined, either by structures or the topography of the land itself. Normally this is a turn out, paddock, or yard.

No access to watercourses: Animals should not have direct access to a drinking water source or other watercourse while in a confined area.

Runoff: Ensure any runoff that comes into contact with manure or leachate is contained so that it does not enter a watercourse, flooded area, or cross the property line.

Setbacks for Confined Livestock Areas			
	drinking water source	watercourse that isn't a drinking water source	property boundary
If there are less than 10 animal units (1 animal unit = 1000 lbs liveweight) and they receive hay or feed	30 m	5 m	1.5
If there are 10 animal units or more and they receive hay or feed	30 m	30 m	1.5 m
Any confined area where animals graze and do not receive supplemental feed	30 m	5 m	N/A

Seasonal feeding areas

These are areas that are used for both cropping and seasonal feeding of animals. Typically, on forage fields where animals are located seasonally and provided supplemental feed.

Make sure that on-ground feeding locations and mobile feeding bins are not placed near drinking water sources, watercourses, or the property line. Use the following setbacks:

Setbacks for feeding locations in seasonal feeding areas	
well or watercourse	property boundary
30 m	4.5 m

Wood residue (e.g., sawdust and hog fuel) storage requirements:

- For any storage of wood residue, there are minimum setback distances from the edge of the storage to water sources: 30 m to a drinking water source, and 15 m to a watercourse that isn't a drinking water source.
- Temporary field storage or permanent storage structure?
 - Temporary piles of wood residues are meant to be temporary (no longer than 12 months). If longer, permanent storage structure requirements apply.
 - Sites for temporary field storage should be changed: they must not occur in the same location again within a 3-year window. Otherwise, permanent storage structure requirements apply to the wood residue pile.
- Temporary field storage requirements
 - Ensure that the materials in the pile and any contaminated runoff or leachate from the pile stays contained, as they must not enter a watercourse or cross a property boundary.
 - Piles should not be sited in low lying areas prone to flooding, in locations with standing water or saturated soil.
 - If your farm is in a [high precipitation area](#) (i.e. South Coast), cover any temporary piles of wood residues stored in the field from October 1 to April 1.
 - Be sure to keep temporary piles off of coarse-textured soil if you are in a vulnerable aquifer recharge area. These are typically soils that are deep and well to excessively drained sands or gravels.
- Permanent storage structure requirements:
 - Ensure that any leachate is contained and runoff from outside the area is diverted away.
 - If you are in a [vulnerable aquifer recharge area](#), a “**protective base**” is required as part of the permanent storage structure. A protective base is typically a concrete pad. A protective base is less commonly an engineered (compacted) soil liner, and most soils would not be considered a protective base.

Forage

Do now

Records: If your operation has a land base of 5 acres or more, you require records for:

- The application of commercial fertilizers and other nutrient sources containing N and P, such as manure or compost – how much, what product, when, and where.
- Yields and soil test results (see below) for fields that are fertilized.

Do in the fall

Soil testing: If your farm is 2 hectares (5 acres) or larger you are required to have soil test phosphorus and soil post-harvest nitrate results from within the last 3 years for soils that receive fertilizers or other nutrient sources containing nitrogen and phosphorus, including compost or manure. This does not include areas that receive manure directly from livestock, only manure that is collected and applied to land:

- The post-harvest nitrate test is intended to quantify any residual nitrate left in the soil at the end of the growing season. Samples for nitrate should be collected to a depth of 30cm (12”) in the fall or early spring
- If the post-harvest nitrate test is 100 kg N/ha (25 ppm for a 30cm/12in sample) or over, the area needs to be sampled again the following year.
- Each sample for post-harvest nitrate should be representative of areas with similar management (crop, fertilizer applications, and irrigation) and soil. Fields or sections may be grouped if they are similar as long as all areas are sampled accordingly.

See the Ministry of Agriculture’s website for more information and recommendations on soil sampling and testing.

Application of manure, fertilizer, or compost.

- Manure, fertilizer, or compost must not be spread on frozen or snow-covered ground.
- In high-precipitation areas, manure and other nutrient sources are not allowed to be applied during November, December, or January.
- In high precipitation areas a risk assessment needs to be completed in October, February, and March before any manure is land-applied.
 - The [BC Application Risk Management tool](#) can be used to do this
- Manure, fertilizer, and other sources of nitrogen must not be applied in excess of the crop nitrogen requirement

AEM Code webpage: <http://gov.bc.ca/Agricultural-Environmental-Management>