



Nutrient Management News

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WINTER 2023

New Rules for Food Processing Residuals Take Effect January 1, 2023

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

New regulations affecting how food processing residuals (FPRs) are applied to farmland take effect on **January 1, 2023**. The new rules aim to reduce farm odors and complaints while ensuring that these products are applied to fields based on their nutrient content. Here's what farmers need to know:

From March 1 – October 31

- FPRs must be directly injected into the soil resulting in 95% soil coverage, *or*
- Incorporated into the soil by the end of the day that the application is made using deep tillage to achieve 95% soil coverage.
- **Beginning July 1**, a harvestable crop or cover crop must be planted no later than 14 days after land application of the material is complete.

From November 1 through December 15

- Non-injectable FPRs may *not* be applied to land. This material must be stored until the last day of February the following year.
- Injectable FPRs may be injected into an existing crop or cover crop. A cereal grain or cover crop must be established on fields accepting the residuals if a crop is not present. Cover crops will follow the guidelines of Maryland's Cover Crop Program, but are not eligible for cost-share assistance.

Beginning December 16

- Injectable FPRs must be stored until the last day of February of the following year.

Questions: Please contact Dwight Dotterer at 410-841-5877 or dwight.dotterer@maryland.gov

Message from Secretary Bartenfelder

Maryland has joined a growing list of states that regulate the application of food processing residuals (FPRs) on agricultural land. New rules for applying FPRs to farm fields take effect on January 1, 2023. In this issue, you can get the facts on when, where, and how FPRs may be applied to Maryland farmland.



Also in this issue, you can review our restrictions on spreading manure in winter. The rules run December 16 through February 28. Many farmers use the winter months to plan for the next growing season and update their nutrient management plans. This issue includes tips on soil testing and other punch list tasks to keep you on top of things.

For turfgrass businesses, we've included a special Inspector's Corner to answer your questions on our records review process. You can brush up on our record-keeping requirements on page 5 of this newsletter.

As you prepare for the 2023 planting and lawn care season, please accept my heartfelt wishes for a peaceful, joyous holiday and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Joseph Bartenfelder

Joe Bartenfelder
Maryland Agriculture Secretary



Maryland's Winter Manure and FPR Restrictions

Run December 16 – February 28

Know the Rules...

To help protect local waterways from nutrient runoff, Maryland does not allow farmers to spread manure or food processing residuals (FPRs) in winter. The rule applies to all farm operations, regardless of type, size, or location. Farmers may resume spreading on March 1, 2023, as long as fields are not saturated, snow-covered, or hard-frozen.



Please...

- Store liquid manure sources generated on the farm in structures.
- Apply potash and liming materials if needed.
- Contact MDA for guidance on storing FPRs.

Do not...

- Apply organic nutrient sources to fields before March 1.
- Apply organic nutrient sources if fields are saturated, snow covered, or hard-frozen.
- Apply chemical fertilizer before March 1. There are exceptions to this rule. Contact your regional nutrient management specialist or University of Maryland Extension advisor for guidance.

Remember...

- Manure deposited directly by livestock is not restricted.
- Spreading can resume March 1 as long as fields are not frozen or snow covered.
- Maryland's winter manure spreading restrictions apply to all livestock operations—large and small. Contact your soil conservation district for free help with storage solutions.

In an Emergency...

Call 410-841-5959 or your regional nutrient management specialist if winter spreading becomes unavoidable. To avoid penalties, please get emergency approval *before any spreading takes place*. The department will work with you to prevent overflows from liquid or non-stackable manures to minimize impacts to water quality. Stackable solids may not be applied to fields in winter, but temporary stockpiling is allowed for solid manures.

Stockpiles

Temporary field stockpiling of poultry litter and other "stackable" organic nutrient sources with 60% or less moisture content is allowed *only* when all other storage options are unavailable. *Here are the rules:*

- Stack the stockpile at least 6 feet high with a peak to allow it to shed rainfall.

- Make certain that the stockpile area is:

- ✓ At least 100 feet from surface water and irrigation or treatment ditches
- ✓ At least 35 feet away if a vegetative buffer is in place
- ✓ At least 150 feet from wells, springs, and wetlands
- ✓ At least 300 feet from wells that are downhill from the stockpile
- ✓ At least 200 feet from homes not on the operator's property
- ✓ Outside flood prone areas and areas prone to ponding
- ✓ No farther than 150 feet from the top of a 3% slope with no diversion

- Spread stockpiled manure on fields no earlier than March 1 the first spring after the stockpile was created. Follow your nutrient management plan.
- After the stockpile is removed, thoroughly scrape or clean the ground and restore the area to its original condition.
- Reseed the area with grass or a crop.

Questions?

Contact your regional nutrient management specialist listed on the back of this newsletter if you have questions about the restrictions for spreading manure or FPRs.

FALL & WINTER

Timely Nutrient Management Tips

from the University of Maryland Agricultural Nutrient Management Program
by Emileigh Lucas, M.S., C.C.A

Now that the 2022 growing season is winding down, some proactive nutrient management tasks could save farmers and planners a headache over winter and into the next growing season. Here are some suggestions from the UMD-ANMP.

Get Your Soil Samples This Fall/Winter - No Need to Delay!

Fall and winter are excellent times to take soil samples. Remember, soil samples are good for up to three years, and nutrient management plans must be written before they expire. If your last soil samples were taken before September 2020, you should get new samples so your plan can be written for the entire 2023 growing season. Do you participate in state cost-share programs (e.g., cover crop cost-share)? If so, this is especially important because a current nutrient management plan is required to enroll in these programs. Samples taken this fall/winter will last through three full growing seasons, including all of 2025. For soil sampling guidance and lab comparisons, see the following link:

go.umd.edu/testing-lab-comparisons



Get Your Plan Started for Next Year

Nutrient management plans can be flexible. Not sure if you will plant corn or soybeans, which vegetable varieties you want to grow, or whether you'll plant a cover crop next year? No problem. You can plan for multiple options and apply nutrients according to the option you choose. If your soil tests are up to date for the next season, you could start the process now. If on-farm manure is produced and applied, you may need to get an updated manure analysis. Starting the rest of the planning process will still save you and your advisor from the stress of last-minute nutrient management planning.

Consider Winter Storage for Liquid (or non-stackable) Manure

Need options to empty your manure storage before the December 15 application cutoff date? Be sure to work with your nutrient management advisor to plan these applications before they become an emergency. MDA and your local soil conservation district can help you seek out options for land application if contacted early.

Organize Your Records

With the rush of harvest, record-keeping may take a back seat. While the events of the season are fresh in your mind, take time to gather and sort fertilizer receipts, records of nutrient applications, and yield records in a timely fashion. Your future self will thank you when it's time to fill out your Annual Implementation Report (AIR) and when you gather data for your next plan.

Is Your Nutrient Management Plan Current?



MDA reminds farmers that a Current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) Certification must accompany all state cost-share applications. The requirement helps ensure that cost-share recipients are in good standing with the Nutrient Management Program. Here's what you need to know and do to make sure your plan is current and keep your conservation funding on track:

- Make sure your NMP covers the current cropping season.
- The plan's *Beginning date* must include spring crop recommendations for the current calendar year.
- The plan's *End date* should run at least through the fall of the current calendar year.
- Ask your consultant to provide a Current NMP certification with your updated plan.
- If you are certified to write your own NMP, you can complete and sign the form.
- Download the one-page form at: bit.ly/NMPlan_Certification



TRAINING CALENDAR

Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

Winter Meetings	
Dates/Topics	Various—Topics include Agronomy, Fruit and Vegetable Production, and Row Crop and Forage Production among others.
Format/Locations	Various
Who Should Attend	Farmers and consultants who want the latest research and data to make informed 2023 growing decisions for agricultural crops. Attendance is free.
Credits	Qualifies for nutrient management voucher training and continuing education credits. Pesticide applicator and certified crop advisor credits are also offered.
How to Register	Go to: https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/meetings-and-events

Nutrient Voucher Training or Recertification	
Dates	Various
Format/Locations	Various offerings both online and in person.
Who Should Attend	Farmers who apply nutrients to 10 or more acres of cropland are required to attend this free two-hour training once every three years. Note: Farmers who are certified to write their own nutrient management plans are not required to attend voucher training. They are required to earn 6 continuing education credits instead.
How to Register	Go to: https://extension.umd.edu/resource/nutrient-management

Learn and Earn Continuing Education Credits On-Line	
Ongoing	Watch a recorded version of a webinar and complete the quiz to earn CEUs.
How to Register	Go to: bit.ly/NMWEBINARS

Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training/Exam	
Dates	December 13, 2022
Location	Salisbury, MD
Who Should Attend	Individuals who want to take the exam to become certified to apply fertilizer to lawns that they manage. An optional training session is available.
Website	Go to: bit.ly/NMTRAINING and scroll down. Check back often for new offerings.

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Continuing Education Webinars	
Dates	Available anytime
Format/Locations	Virtual
Who Should Attend	Certified professional fertilizer applicators who need to renew their certifications.
How to Register	Go to: bit.ly/NMTRAINING and scroll down. Check back often for new offerings.



Maryland
OneStop

Reporting Forms Due March 1

Farmers: The deadline to submit your Annual Implementation Report (AIR) is March 1, 2023. The report outlines nutrient applications made in 2022. Paper reporting forms will be mailed to regulated farmers in January and posted on the website.

Pressed for time? File your report electronically. Last year, more than 30% of regulated farmers took advantage of this time-saving reporting option. To e-file your report:

- Go to onestop.md.gov and browse the state agencies for the 2022 AIR reporting form.
- Follow the instructions to set up your account and complete your report. A mail-in option is still available. Paper reports will be mailed to regulated farmers in January. They will also be available on the website. Questions? Please call 410-841-5959 for assistance.

Air Workshops

To ensure all farmers can take advantage of electronic reporting, the NMP and UME will host a series of **Maryland OneStop** workshops around the state. Participants will have access to a laptop computer. Free technical support will be provided by nutrient management specialists and Extension advisors. Check with your local Extension office or regional nutrient management specialist for dates and locations in your county. You can also visit our training page at: bit.ly/NMTRAINING



Inspector's Corner

Good Records Are the Key to Good Reviews

Urban Update

Blackout Dates Are Now in Effect

- Fertilizer blackout dates run from November 16 through February 28.
- Lawns may not be fertilized with products containing N or P during the blackout dates; *however*,
- Between November 16 and December 1, lawn care pros may apply up to 0.5 pound of soluble or insoluble N per 1,000 sq. ft. to the lawns they manage.
- Potassium and lime may still be applied during the blackout dates.
- Fertilizer applications containing N and P may be resumed on March 1, 2023 as long as the ground is not frozen or heavy rain is not predicted.

New Deadlines for Renewals

- Professional Fertilizer Applicators (PFAs) and business license holders now have until December 31, 2022 to renew certifications and licenses.
- Renewal notices must be returned to MDA by December 31, 2022 to avoid certification and licensing lapses.
- The 3-year renewal cycle for PFAs to earn 6 CEUs has been extended to December 31, 2023.

Fertilizer Reports Due March 1

Annual Fertilizer Application Reports (AFARs) are due March 1, 2023. The reports summarize N, P and K applied to lawns in 2022. While paper reports are still accepted, businesses are encouraged to e-file their reports through Maryland OneStop. To file your report electronically:

1. Go to onestop.md.gov and register for an account.
2. Browse through the state agencies for the Department of Agriculture.
3. Scroll through the MDA forms and licenses for the 2022 Annual Fertilizer Application Report.

Questions?

Contact Judy McGowan at judy.mcgowan@maryland.gov or 410-980-9084.

Has your business been selected for an inspection by the Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program? Here's a Q&A on what you need to know and do:

Q. Why was my business selected for an inspection?

A. MDA inspects all licensed businesses regularly to ensure compliance.

Q. What types of records will you review?

A. Here's what we are looking for:

- Daily field record sheets or the data collection system used to record the daily activity. This information should include the following:
 - Application date
 - Product label information
 - Amount applied
 - Rate applied
 - Lawn size
 - Applicator's name
 - Address of the lawn
- Mobile apps, spreadsheets, or paper records will be inspected.
- Depending on the completeness of your records, additional information may be requested.

Q. Are there other reasons why I was selected for an inspection?

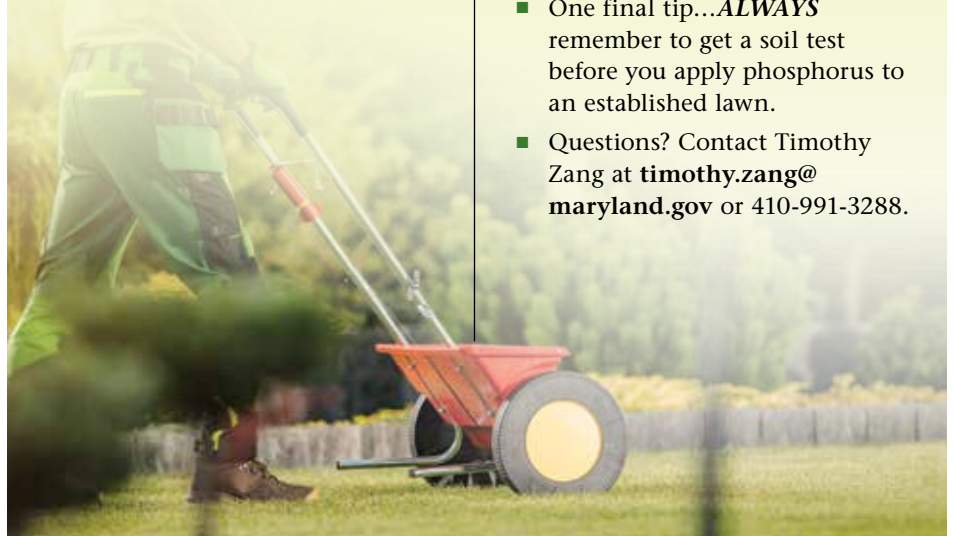
A. Here are some additional reasons why you may have been selected for an inspection:

- Expired license.
- No Professional Fertilizer Applicator (PFA) on file at MDA.
- Over application of nutrients.
- Previous infractions.
- Incomplete Annual Fertilizer Application Report (AFAR). (Chances are that your report had missing information or errors.)
- Complaints.

Q. How do I do to ensure a positive review?

A. Follow these directions:

- Make your fertilizer label available to the inspector. We accept this information in many forms, including PDFs and phone images.
- Resister all employees that may apply fertilizer to lawns. PFAs are not always on each crew!
- Maintain your records in a format that we can understand. We have sample forms and spreadsheets that you can use.
- One final tip...**ALWAYS** remember to get a soil test before you apply phosphorus to an established lawn.
- Questions? Contact Timothy Zang at timothy.zang@maryland.gov or 410-991-3288.





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Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*
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Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Offices and Staff Directory

Western Maryland

Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties

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Carroll and Frederick counties

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Contact: Moana Himes, 410-353-4320 or
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Central and Southern Maryland

Anne Arundel, Howard, and Montgomery counties

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Baltimore and Harford counties

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Cecil and Kent counties

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Nutrient Management News

2023 WINTER

We've Made Some Staff Changes to Serve You Better

Farmers and consultants, please see the updated staff directory *at left* and join us in...

- Wishing Keith Potter the best in his new position as MDA's regional coordinator for Western Maryland.
- Welcoming Emilee Smith as the new regional specialist for Baltimore and Harford counties.

Maryland Nutrient Management News is published by the Maryland Nutrient Management Program. It is designed to help farmers, consultants, and lawn care professionals comply with Maryland's nutrient management regulations. Comments and suggestions should be directed to the Maryland Nutrient Management Program, Maryland Department of Agriculture. Email: ninfo.mda@maryland.gov

