

Getting the Most out of your Short-term Manure Storage

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Land application is still the most effective means of managing livestock manure, but how should solids be handled when crops are growing or if the soil is frozen and covered with snow? Understanding regulation options and enforcement policies, plus the benefits of short-term storage can reduce the stress of managing accumulated manure stockpiles.

The Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA) allows producers to store solid manure at a livestock facility (either in a pen or on a pad) or at a short-term solid manure storage site. A producer utilizing short-term storage must consider the following AOPA's requirements:

- (1) "Short term" means an accumulated total of not more than 7 month over a period 3 years, and
- (2) Meet setbacks from residences and common bodies of water.

It is important to understand why producers may choose to short-term stockpile their solid manure (access to labour and equipment, economics, field conditions, and weather, etc.). The legislation was written to allow flexibility and options to manage manure. Producers are encouraged to understand the manure handling legislation and take advantage of manure storage opportunities.