

# Definitions for Frozen and Snow-covered Land

## Purpose

- Define frozen and snow-covered land

## Relevant Legislation

- *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* and Standards and Administration Regulation

## Introduction

This guideline provides definitions for frozen and snow-covered land as referred to in the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA). It also provides methods to determine if land is frozen or snow-covered.

These methods will help operators who are considering applying manure to identify whether the land is frozen or snow-covered.

Operators need to be aware of the regulations within AOPA regarding the spreading of manure on frozen or snow-covered land. **If uncertain about whether land is frozen or snow-covered, operators should contact the NRCB for assistance.**

## Definitions

- Frozen land - the soil is impenetrable as a result of freezing temperatures, or more than one third of the top 15 cm (six inches) contains frozen soil water

- Snow-covered land - more than 50 per cent of the field is covered by an average snow depth of more than 5 cm (two inches) from the ground surface

## Methods to Determine Conditions

- Frozen land: Use a shovel to determine penetrability. If the soil can be dug using a shovel, visually inspect the soil for frozen soil water. Repeat this test at several locations on the field that is being considered, in order to make a representative determination.
- Snow-covered land: Visually examine the field for snow coverage and measure the depth of the snow. Conduct visual estimates and measurements at a number of locations across the entire field to make a representative determination.



## For more information

Contact your nearest NRCB field office or an AF CFO extension specialist (dial 310-0000 to be connected toll free)

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[www.agriculture.alberta.ca/aopa](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/aopa)

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