

### 30. ORGANIC NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Manure is a plant nutrient material. It is a valuable resource and, when combined with bedding material, a residue source.

We believe:

1. County Farm Bureaus should develop a better understanding among farmers and the public of issues concerning organic nutrient management.
2. Ongoing research should be encouraged to determine air quality and odor parameters that provide scientifically-proven levels for livestock health and worker safety.
3. There must be no direct discharge from manure storage systems or livestock facilities to surface waters, drainage ditches, or field tiles due to negligence, poor management, and faulty structural design. Direct discharges due to natural causes should be exempt from civil and punitive penalties and damages.
4. Research on manure management is a high priority including such topics as odor reduction, waste and nutrient management, and artificial wetland remediation of nutrients. Some flexibility should be allowed in wetlands management.
5. Any proposed law, rule, or regulation which would restrict a farmer's nutrient management plan shall only be implemented if consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed at the state level with the cooperation and assistance of our state land grant institutions with considerations given for local conditions.
6. Government agencies must utilize proven scientific practices and cost/benefit analyses when developing policies concerning organic nutrient management facilities and application of manure.
7. Additional government cost-share funding should be made available to farmers for constructing manure handling facilities to correct existing problems.
8. That the development and enforcement of organic nutrient management standards are best handled at the state level but any dialog on national environmental standards or legislation for organic nutrient management must be based on proven science and generally-accepted agricultural BMPs and should comply with the above points. The authority for enforcement and implementation of these standards should be clearly defined to protect farmers from differing interpretations by state or federal agencies.

We support:

1. Programs to educate farmers on techniques regarding properly-managed organic nutrient systems.
2. A public relations program to emphasize methods by which farmers protect the environment by using properly-managed organic nutrient systems.

We oppose requiring livestock operations to obtain permits for application of livestock manure.