

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau understands and supports updating NRCS Standard 590 – Nutrient Management per the directive of the national NRCS office. In Wisconsin, we have developed a system where NRCS technical standards are incorporated into state regulations as a way to illustrate that we are in compliance with environmental laws. For the most part this has worked well. By having the same technical standards utilized by local, state and federal programs, there has been consistency.

The major change that you as farmers need to review is the new winter manure spreading requirements. The new national 590 standard contains a provision prohibiting the winter spreading of manure, unless an approved winter manure spreading system is approved by the state water quality agency. The proposed Wisconsin NRCS 590 standard contains the following winter manure spreading requirements.

When frozen or snow-covered soils prevent effective incorporation of manure at the time of application:

Do not apply manure within surface water quality management areas.

Do not exceed the P removal of the following season's crop when applying manure. Liquid manure applications are limited to 7000 gallons per acre. All winter manure applications are not to exceed 60 pounds of P₂O₅ per acre. The balance of the crop nutrient requirement may be applied the following spring or summer.

Do not apply manure to fields where concentrated flow channels are present unless two or more of the following are implemented.

Contour buffer strips or contour strip cropping.

Leave all crop residue (excludes removal of silage or bedding) and no fall tillage.

Apply manure in intermittent strips on no more than 50% of the field.

Apply manure on no more than 25% of the field during each application waiting a minimum of 14 days between applications.

Reduce manure application rate to 3500 gallons or 30 pounds of P₂O₅, whichever is less.

No manure application within 200 feet of all concentrated flow channels or fall tillage is on the contour and slopes are less than 6%.

Do not apply manure on slopes greater than 6% unless the plan documents that no other accessible fields are available for winter spreading and two or more of the following are implemented.

Contour buffer strips and contour strip cropping.

Leave all crop residue (excludes removal of silage or bedding) and no fall tillage.

Apply manure in intermittent strips on no more than 50% of the field.

Apply manure on no more than 25% of the field during each application waiting a minimum of 14 days between applications.

Reduce manure application rate to 3500 gallons or 30 pounds of P₂O₅, whichever is less.

Do not apply manure during February or March on areas depicted on the 590 spreading restrictions maps as areas where DNR well compensation funds provided replacement water supplies for wells contaminated with livestock manure.

Do not apply manure within 300 feet of direct conduits to groundwater.

Please review how these proposed winter manure spreading restrictions impact your farm. WFBF then encourages you to submit comments to NRCS to express if these restrictions are workable or if changes are needed. To comment please visit: <http://socwisconsin.org/current-work/nutrient-management/>