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Emergency Planning for the Farm Livestock Operations (Supplement)  
Michigan State University Extension Service

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# Emergency Planning

for the

# Farm



## Livestock Operations

A cooperative effort between Michigan State University and Purdue University. Funding provided by the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) for the Smith-Lever Special Needs Program.

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**E**xtension bulletin E-2575, "Emergency Planning for the Farm," provides an outline for developing an emergency plan for farm chemical releases. Livestock producers should complete additional planning information to prepare for potential manure releases, catastrophic animal loss and silage leachate. Once completed, this plan should be available to and understood by all farm employees. The main points of the plan, along with the relevant phone numbers, should be posted by all telephones at the site. A copy should also be available in remote locations or vehicles if the land application sites are not adjacent to the facility office.

# WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A SPILL

Recognize and make an initial assessment of the spill, then take quick and effective action to minimize damage. Some operations will need assistance from nearby pro-

ducers and others. It is essential to make arrangements before an emergency arises so that every person involved will know what to do.

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## The 5 C's of Spill Response

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### 1) Caution — Beware of dangers.

Human health and safety take precedence.

### 2) Control the source.

- Stop manure application or pumps.
- Close valves.
- Separate pipes, creating an air gap and stopping flow.
- Transfer manure liquid to another basin, lagoon or tank.
- Plug holes.
- Check field tiles.

### 3) Contain the spill.

- Build containment dam in field, ditch or stream. Check for tile flows.
- Limit the area affected.
- Construct a temporary holding basin downslope from the release.

- Use absorbent material such as sawdust to absorb the release.
- Place soil over the point of seepage, if accessible.

### 4) Comply with reporting requirements.

- Did the release reach any surface waters, streams, well casings or other sensitive areas?
- You must immediately report manure spills on public roads (county sheriff) and those that reach surface waters (MDEQ).
- For other spills, prepare a summary report for your files to document your actions. (See page 14 of Extension bulletin E-2575.)

### 5) Clean up - Assess and restore the affected area.

- Collect spilled manure and spread or return to storage.
- Restore damaged area.
- Prepare a summary report.

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## Agriculture Pollution Emergency Hotline

Contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Pollution Emergency Hotline (1-800-405-0101). It provides immediate access to appropriate technical assistance, regulatory guidance for notification and

remediation, commonsense approaches for taking care of the problem and information on financial assistance possibilities. The hotline is available 24 hours a day and serves as the reporting center when pesticides, fertilizers and manures are accidentally spilled or released.

**Farm name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**List emergency telephone numbers** (Or complete page 6 of Extension bulletin E-2575. Note: contacts with asterisk [\*] should be added to emergency contacts in E-2575.)

Facility owner	Alternate contact
Sheriff	Drain commissioner*
Fire department	Road commissioner*
State Police	DEQ
Veterinarian*	Other

**Agriculture Pollution Emergency Hotline: 1-800-405-0101**

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**Develop a map** (For help, see page 8 of Extension bulletin E-2575.)

Items to include:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Anticipated flow path in the event of a spill</li> <li>■ Streams, wetlands and lakes</li> <li>■ Schools, churches, daycare centers, etc.</li> <li>■ Drainage ditches</li> <li>■ Surface intakes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Well heads</li> <li>■ Tile flow</li> <li>■ Road ditches</li> <li>■ Other sensitive areas</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

**Note available excavating equipment for manure spills.** Include owned and other nearby equipment and contact information. Making a prearranged agreement with several neighbors is highly recommended. Include excavating equipment as well as additional pumping equipment and storage.

Additional equipment and storage	Location and owner	Telephone

**Confined spaces emergency entrance procedure**

Farmers die every year in confined spaces such as manure pits, silos, tank spreaders, below-ground storage pits, grain bins, dryers and others. **Do not enter a confined space without proper training and equipment.** To develop an emergency entrance plan, consult the documents listed in the "Other Tools and Resources" section at the end of this bulletin.

**Animal death loss**

Immediately contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Animal Industry Division (AID) for any unexplainable or suspicious animal deaths, concern that the animal deaths may be due to a contagious or zoonotic disease or toxicologic situation, or the need to dispose of large numbers of dead animals. Work closely with your private veterinarian if such circumstances exist. During regular working hours MDA AID may be reached at (517) 373-1077. After hours and on weekends, please use the MDA emergency number: (517) 373-0440.

Consult the Michigan Department of Agriculture brochure "Proper Disposal of Animal Carcasses in Michigan" for guidelines for animal burial.

**Emergency action plans for potential manure spills**

**Breach of manure storage**

General action steps: stop flow into storage, build containment dams, add soil to berm, pump manure from storage to field, remove manure from discharge area. Utilize prearranged additional storage with neighbor. You must contact the Department of Environmental Quality **if manure intercepts surface water.** Prepare summary report.

Your plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Manure spill on roadway**

General action steps: human injuries, if present, take precedence. Stop any additional spill, build containment dams and remove manure, contact road commissioner and drain commissioner, wash manure from road under advisement. Prepare summary report. You must contact the county sheriff if manure is spilled in a roadway and the Department of Environmental Quality **if manure intercepts surface water.**

Your plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Manure irrigation emergency**

General action steps: stop pumps, close valves, separate pipes, build containment dams, remove manure from discharge area, plug tiles leading to surface water. Prepare summary report.

Your plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Manure spill in field

General action steps: stop manure application, build containment dams, collect manure. Apply collected manure at agronomic rates. Prepare summary report.

Your plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Runoff of manure from field

General action steps: stop application, plow a diversion trench and remove manure, if necessary. Prepare summary report.

Your plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Silage leachate containment plan

General action steps: utilize sawdust, lime or other material to contain and /or neutralize leachate. Collect leachate in designed containment; utilize grass filter strip to treat pad runoff.

Your plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Other Tools and Resources

#### Emergency planning:

- Extension bulletin E-2575, "Emergency Planning for the Farm." Contact your local groundwater technician or Extension office.
- Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship Curriculum Distributed by MidWest Plan Service, 1-800-562-3618, [www.MWPSHG.org](http://www.MWPSHG.org)

#### Silage leachate management:

- Frequently asked questions document can be found at [www.maeap.org](http://www.maeap.org)
- "Corn Silage Production, Management and Feeding," NCR 574. Available through your local MSU Extension office.

#### Animal mortality management:

- Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship Curriculum. Distributed by MidWest Plan Service, 1-800-562-3618, [www.MWPSHG.org](http://www.MWPSHG.org)
- Act 239, P.A. 1982, as amended (these are the dead animal disposal regulations).
- "Proper Disposal of Animal Carcasses in Michigan" (short informative brochure). Available from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division. Phone: 517-373-1077, [www.michigan.gov/mda](http://www.michigan.gov/mda)

#### Confined spaces:

- "Preventing Deaths of Farm Workers in Manure Pits," NIOSH publication 90-103.
- "Worker Deaths in Confined Spaces" — A Summary of NIOSH Surveillance and Investigative Findings," January 1994, NIOSH publication 94-103. Contact 1-800-35-NIOSH or [www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html)
- "Farm Rescue - Responding to incidents and emergencies in agricultural settings," NRAES-10, 1999 Revision. Available through your local MSU Extension office.
- Department of Consumer and Industry Services General Industry Safety Standards Part 77. Grain Handling Facilities, BSR-STD-1154 (01/01). Contact [www.cis.state.mi.us/bsr/divisions/std](http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bsr/divisions/std)
- Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship Curriculum. Distributed by MidWest Plan Service, 1-800-562-3618, [www.MWPSHG.org](http://www.MWPSHG.org)

