

“Right Timing” of Nutrient Application

Partnership Livestock Organizations and OMAFRA



Working Group



Nutrient Application: *Timing Matters*



Phosphorus in manure and other nutrients can be lost to runoff when applied on frozen and snow covered ground, before it rains and when soil is saturated.

The right timing can increase your profits while minimizing harmful environmental impacts. **It's the right thing to do.**

For more information, contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca.

ontario.ca/nutrientuse

Developed in co-operation with Chicken Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Pork, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Beef Farmers of Ontario and the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency.

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs



Education and Awareness

Nutrient Application: *Timing Matters*

Phosphorus in manure and other nutrients can be lost to runoff when applied at the wrong time:

- on frozen and snow covered ground
- before it rains
- when soil is saturated

Applying at the wrong time can lead to reduced water quality and algal blooms in our streams, rivers and lakes. Instead, apply when crops and soil are able to use the nutrients. The right timing can increase your profits while minimizing harmful environmental impacts. **It's the right thing to do.**

ontario.ca/nutrientuse

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Ministry of Agriculture,
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Right Timing of Nutrient Application

Nutrient Application - Timing Matters

Timing matters when it comes to applying manure and other nutrients. Phosphorus in manure and other nutrients can be lost from runoff when applied at the wrong time, meaning a loss of nutrients for you and a greater risk to the environment, such as algal blooms and reduced water quality in our Great Lakes. This includes when applied:

- on frozen and snow covered ground
- right before it rains
- when soil is saturated

Applying at the right time is the right thing to do

Consider the 4R's: apply the right nutrients at the right rate, at the right time and at the right place.

There are many ways you can manage your nutrients without spreading at the wrong time. Visit the **Nutrient Management** web page for resources to help you determine what you can do for your operation. Contact a **nutrient management consultant** for help with nutrient management planning and to see what alternatives will work for your operation.

Funding

You may be eligible for Growing Forward 2 (GF2) or Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) funding to help manage your nutrients. Visit our website for **more information about GF2**. Visit the **Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association** website for more information about GLASI programs.

Some conservation authorities have funding available for environmental projects. Contact the **conservation authority** in your area for more information.

Resources

Manure and nutrient management

- [Manure Management](#)
- [Nutrient Management](#)
- [Preparing a Nutrient Management Strategy/Plan](#)

Soil health

- [Soil Management: Soil Health Check](#)
- [Choosing a Cover Crop](#)



Ontario Farmer Article – Nov 22, 2016

There are specific rules in place governing nutrient applications between Dec. 1 and March 31 for farms requiring a nutrient management plan.

Winter spreading attracts attention

There are signs that farmers can expect to see new regulations regarding the practice

BY FRANCES ANDERSON

Ontario Farmer

When everyone was busy harvesting this fall, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) published two court convictions related to improper winter manure spreading.

Two convictions in a year could be dismissed as trivial, but they are more likely an

fought hard to get "outcome-based" regulations incorporated in to the Nutrient Management Act of 2002.

Consequently, manure management is sensibly dictated by circumstances, rather than by arbitrary dates.

"There are specific rules for applying nutrients if your farm is required to have a Nutrient Management Plan under the Nutrient Management Act," says Matt Wilson, the nutrient management program lead for OMAFRA.

"These rules apply between Dec. 1 to March 31, and at any other time when the ground is

promoting "right timing".

While a "drive-by" survey of Ontario farms suggests winter manure spreading is limited, brown manure applied to fresh snow is highly visible.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change typically gets two to three dozen calls about winter spreading a year.

They're more likely to occur after a wet fall and/or late harvest, as was the case in the fall of 2013. It was followed by an extremely harsh winter and deep frost, which prevented incorporation.

But, even during the past win-

Helping Individual Producers Complaint Response Pilot

Wrong Time Spreading 2017

1. Enter Information

Date**Input By****Field Conditions****Weather Conditions****Type of Material**

Operation Type

Select...



Application Method

Select...



Field Characteristics

Select...



Existing Plan

Select...



Application Reason

Select...



Farm Characteristics

Select...



Normal Schedule

Select...



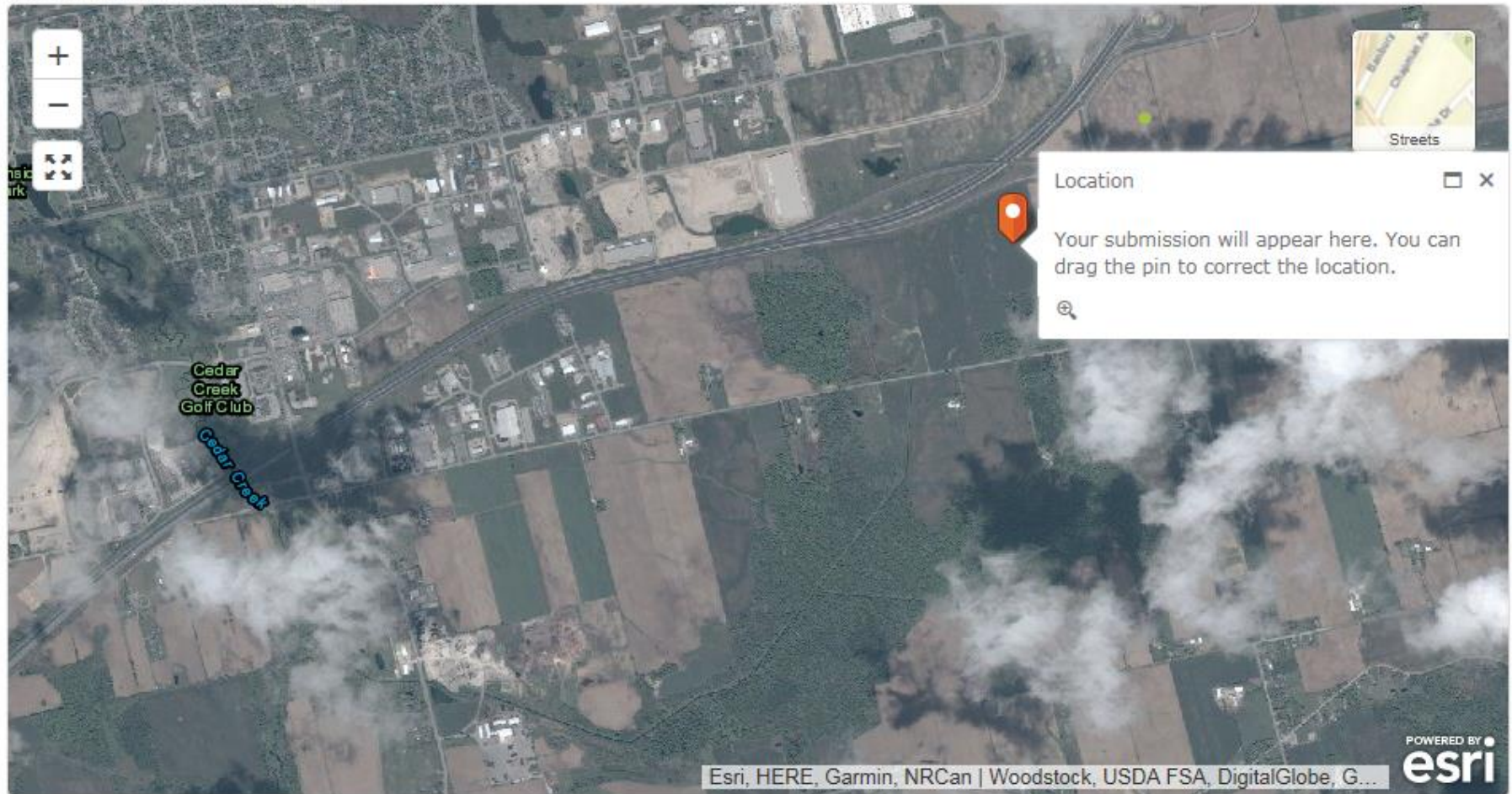
Other Options

Select...



Woodstock, Ontario, Canada

Latitude: 43.09630, Longitude: -80.72240



3. Complete Form

