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Requirements for Incorporation of Organic Nutrients:

Guidance on implementation of nutrient management regulatory requirements

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This information is intended to clarify site conditions that may exempt a producer from the requirement to incorporate or inject organic nutrient sources within 48 hours. It also provides guidance as to the type of documentation that will need to be kept as part of the records for implementation of a nutrient management plan when site conditions allow an exemption from this requirement.

The following is a list of site conditions that exempt a producer from the requirement to incorporate or inject an organic nutrient source within 48 hours:

1. Livestock manure deposited directly by animals
2. Permanent pastures
3. Land used for hay production
4. Fields which are defined as being highly erodible land (HEL) following USDA, NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and determination protocols. For purposes of this exemption these fields may be documented by a FSA map or by a SCWQ plan map verified with a SCD representative signature (either must be included with NMP).
5. Fields in which current soil conservation & water quality plan requirements prohibit or otherwise restrict soil disturbance. Documentation of this prohibition must be substantiated by a RUSLE calculation to compare erosion factors with and without incorporation or injection. In short, manure incorporation is exempted *only if a RUSLE calculation shows that soil sediment delivery exceeds T,* ***even when the best technology available in the market is used.***
    a. if incorporation/injection results in sediment delivery in excess of T, then the field is exempt from incorporation/injection requirements, specifically:
        i. this comparison may first be run using incorporation equipment the producer has on hand or prefers to use;

ii. if the above comparison exceeds T, then the comparison must be re-run using best available technology or equipment that minimizes soil disturbance such as vertical tillage or an injector

iii. only if the latter comparison results in sediment delivery in excess of T, will the field then be exempt from incorporation/injection requirements;

iv. if the sediment delivery value does not exceed T in the RUSLE calculated using best available technology, then the equipment must be ultimately used to incorporate any applied organic nutrients in the specific fields on which RUSLE was run.

b. the RUSLE calculation should be based on the year of organic nutrient application for the crop that receives the application;

c. the RUSLE calculation should be done on a field by field basis;

d. only professionals recognized as trained and qualified to run RUSLE including a NRCS employee, MDA nutrient management certified consultant including a farmer certified to write nutrient management plans, NRCS technical service provider (TSP), or staff working in soil conservation district may prepare the RUSLE; and

e. documentation must include operator, account ID field name/number, T designation, sediment delivery value with and without incorporation, and signature (include nutrient management certification ID number if applicable) of the RUSLE preparer.

6. Fields, other than HEL, which are restricted from disturbance due to an USDA or other legally recognized contract or requirement. Documentation should include pertinent information copied from the contract identifying the operator and delineating restrictions which prohibit soil disturbance.

7. Land where nutrients are applied to a growing crop through spray irrigation.

8. Small grains planted for harvest, either as grain or silage, will be considered to be a standing crop, and therefore exempt from incorporation of organic nutrient sources during spring green up.