



Environmental Code of Practice for Fall Nitrogen Fertilization

Purpose

- To establish reasonable and practice guidelines for fall nitrogen fertilization so to reduce nitrate loss from farm fields entering the Des Moines and Raccoon River and connecting tributaries.
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Why

- Effective management of nutrients on farms in watersheds is one of the keys to enhancing both environmental quality and profitable crop production in the Raccoon and Des Moines River watershed.
 - The impact from agricultural application of nitrogen on receiving water resources is gaining increased attention from local, regional and national levels.
 - This Environmental Code of Practice (ECOP) provides information about practice guidelines adopted by ACWA members.
 - Adherence to this practice enables agriculture to demonstrate management commitment without the need of regulations.
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Application Guidelines

1. Review and use information regarding fate of applied nitrogen. Use Iowa State University Extension web site link: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/>.
 2. Use the standardized county temperature and forecast maps found at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/>
 3. Delay anhydrous ammonia applications until soil temperatures are:
 - 50° F, trending lower, without a nitrification inhibitor
 - 60° F, trending lower, with use of a nitrification inhibitor in a manner consistent with manufactures label directions
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Management Factors

1. Establish agronomically sound recommendations considering all N sources.
 2. Confirm that soil moisture conditions are conducive for application and sealing.
 3. Use and maintain application equipment to proper standards.
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Conformance With ECOP

- Conformance to this standard is a requirement of ACWA membership.
- Members are required to notify the ACWA office by email or by phone their intention to start application of fall applied nitrogen.
- ACWA will compile a report for review.

ACWA

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