

Locating Manure Stockpiles

Producers using a solid manure system for their livestock or poultry operations may need to stockpile manure prior to field application. Stockpiling is a safe and acceptable manure management practice when appropriate precautions are taken.

Surface Water Protection

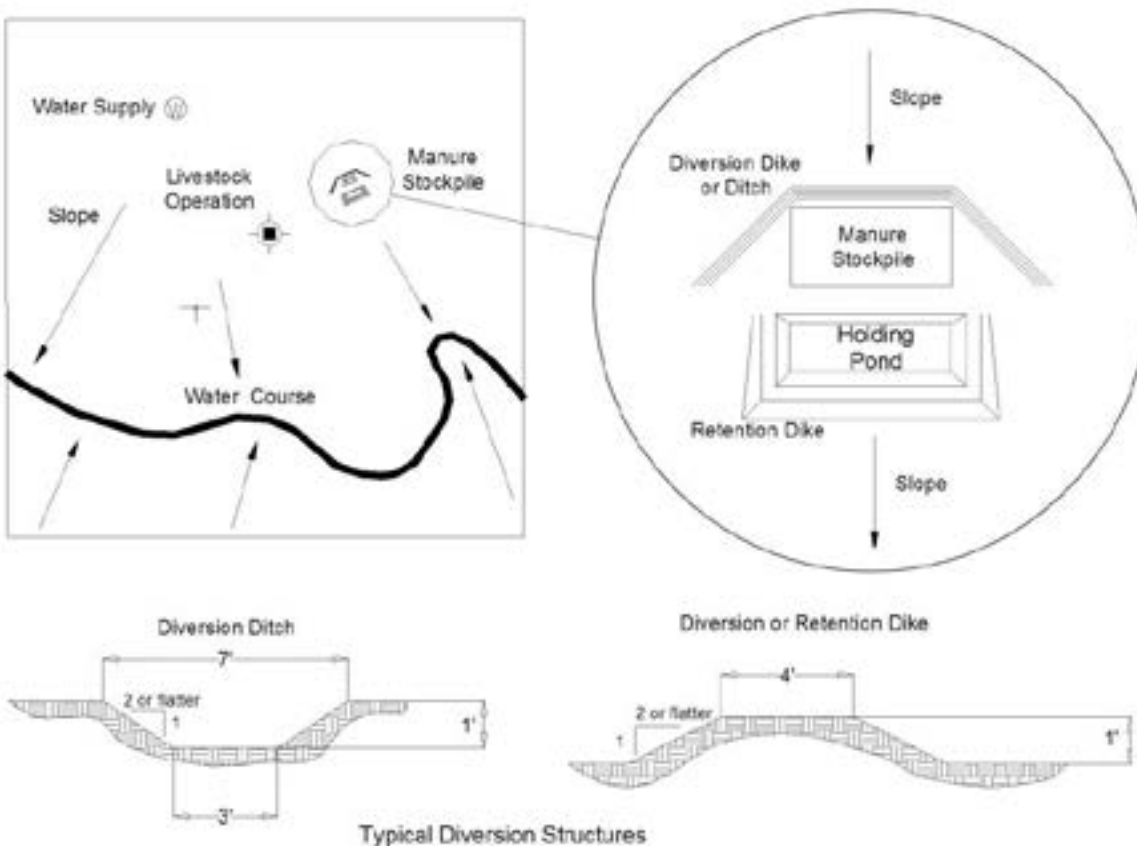
Runoff from stockpiles should remain on the property. Select sites where runoff is self-contained or construct a retention dyke around the pile. Locate piles away from water runs and divert surface water away from stockpiles.

Ground Water Protection

Place stockpiles in locations with clay or till subsurface soils. Avoid stockpiling manure in locations where subsurface soils are known to be sandy. Do not stockpile manure over a shallow aquifer or within 100 metres of a water well.

A review of water-well records for the area will provide general data on subsurface soil conditions and the depth of aquifers in the area. Water-well records are available from the [Water Security Agency](http://www.watersecurityagency.ca) at 1-866-727-5420.

Test holes provide valuable information if there is any doubt about the subsurface soil type or the presence of shallow water-bearing formations.



Stockpile Management

Spread the manure within one year of being stockpiled and leave the site as clean as possible.

Obtain an analysis of the nutrient content of the manure prior to spreading. Spread the manure according to the nutrient requirements of the crop to be grown on the field.

Information on developing a [manure management plan](#) is available on the Ministry of Agriculture website. Producers can also reach out to their [local regional office](#) for further information. Follow accepted management practices for environmental protection and minimize dust or odour when spreading manure.



Ensure that manure stockpiled during field applications is spread within a reasonable period.

Visibility

While stockpiling is an acceptable manure management practice, producers should consider locating stockpiles where they are not readily visible. Use natural features, such as trees and hills, to screen stockpiles.

Public Process

Trucks hauling manure to stockpiles will be visible to neighbours and this may have implications for the local municipality. Informing neighbours and the municipality of your plans may help to prevent complaints relating to nuisance such as dust and odour.

If you have any questions, contact the Ministry of Agriculture's
Agricultural Operations Unit:
306-787-2150.