

Standard Operating Procedure: Manure and Runoff Collection

1. Test well water for nitrates and bacteria annually.
2. Evaluate amount of manure produced on dairy once and following any significant expansion.
3. Harrow pens daily and collect manure from corrals when it gets one inch deep.
4. Maintain pens so that they will have a smooth surface with a slope of 3-5%. Divert run-on from areas above the corrals so that it flows away from the corrals rather than across them.
5. Collect run-off from corrals and manure stockpiles in a run-off storage pond.
6. Fence cows out of water courses.
7. Evaluate amount of other wastes that get mixed in with manure (bedding, waste feed) annually.
8. Evaluate effectiveness of fly control weekly.
9. Evaluate dust control during dry weather.
10. Perform mechanical evaluation of sprinklers prior to each use.
11. Change stocking density to control moisture content of the corral surface and reduce odor and dust problems when weather conditions warrant.
12. Meet with neighbors periodically to assure they understand the dairy operation and are not harboring complaints.

Courtesy of Jessica Davis, Environmental Soil Scientist, CSU