Managing Your NPDES Permit: Focus on Compliance

Heartland Water Quality Initiative
Iowa State University Extension
Iowa Beef Center at ISU
IMMAG
Purpose of Meeting

- Construction permit
- Operating permit
  - Operations and maintenance section
  - Responsibility to make it work and report your activity and its performance
- Organization
  - What, how, who, when, where
Objectives

- Help you understand what is in your permit and the record and report requirements.
- Develop a checklist for *daily and weekly records* that must be kept, provide the forms to use, and discuss how to assign responsibilities and implement strategies for maintaining records.
Objectives

- Develop a reporting calendar for *quarterly and annual reports*, identify what’s in the reports, provide the forms to submit, determine how many copies to make and where to send them.
Objectives

• Discuss the steps and timeline involved in developing a nutrient management plan and filing the public notice of the plan.

• Provide the record forms for documenting implementation of the nutrient management plans and the requirements for maintaining and reporting compliance.
Disclaimer

• Our focus in on process and organization for compliance
  – Not on exceptions and details
  – Your permit is a legal contract, be sure you understand it

• Work with professionals
  – Engineer that designed your system
  – Nutrient management planner
Disclaimer

- Focus on compliance and what is required as we know it today
  - Stewardship and profitability are your responsibilities as well
  - We may not cover these issues today
  - They are compatible with your permit
What is NPDES Permit?

• National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

• “… an authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved state agency (IDNR) to implement the requirements of NPDES regulations
What is NPDES Permit?

• In layman’s terms, it is a permit that tells you how to operate your feedlot so that discharges do not occur unless you exceed the 25-year, 24-hour rainfall for your area.
Discharge Includes

- Manure
- Open Feedlot Effluent
- Settled Open Lot Effluent
- Settable Solids
- Process Wastewater
What’s in a Permit?

- Effluent Limitations
- Special Conditions
- Standard Conditions
- Monitoring, record-keeping and reporting requirements
Effluent Limitations

• Applied to both production areas and land application areas
• These limitations are managed by your engineering design, daily operation, maintenance and your nutrient management plan
Open Feedlot Effluent Application Period

- Describes how effluent is collected, removed and land applied
- Defines effluent application frequency
- Effluent removal complete when remaining volume is less than 10% of the system’s design storage volume
General Operation and Maintenance

- Minimum Required Practices
  - Daily Climatic Conditions
    - Temperature, precipitation
  - Overflow and Release Days
  - Record when Solids are Removed and regular maintenance and scraping of lots
  - Record Stocking Numbers when animals are removed or added to lot
General Operation and Maintenance

• Minimum requirements cont.
  – Visual inspection
    • Daily: water and cooling lines
    • Weekly: Storm water diversions, runoff diversions, devices channeling contaminated storm water to wastewater and manure storage and containment structures
General Operation and Maintenance

• Min Req. cont.
  – Surface Liquid Impoundments must have depth marker
  – Must identify min. capacity necessary to contain runoff and direct precip from 25-year, 24-hour storm
  – Depth marker checked after each rainfall and at least once a week
  – Record corrective actions