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Paunch Management Methods

This guidance document has been produced by the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) to provide information on the management of paunch. “Paunch manure” refers to the partially digested material taken from an animal at the time of slaughter. It only applies to the contents of the digestive tract and does not include any other parts of the animal such as tongues, trim, or organs.

Paunch material may be directly land applied as soil conditioner or fertilizer, composted for the purpose of land application, disposed of in a permitted Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfill, or used as livestock feed. If using paunch for livestock feed, contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture for guidance.

Land Application

A permit from DWEE is required for a generator of paunch who land applies more than 10 tons of dry paunch manure per acre, or if paunch manure is being stored on-site at a dedicated paunch manure application site. If the generator of the paunch assigns the paunch manure to a facility permitted by DWEE, then the paunch will become the responsibility of the permitted facility. Permit requirements can be found in Nebraska [Title 126 – Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Management of Waste](#), Chapter 10 Land Application of Paunch.

Paunch manure sites where less than 10 tons of dry paunch manure are applied per acre, and where there is no on-site storage are not required to have a permit. Paunch cannot be stockpiled at any site that is not permitted by DWEE.

The moisture content of the paunch manure should be determined before land application. Paunch must be incorporated into the soil within 24 hours unless an alternate time frame has been approved by DWEE. Paunch may be land applied without being incorporated into the soil during the winter months provided that it is incorporated within 30 days after weather and soil conditions become favorable.

For all direct land application sites, paunch manure shall not be:

- Surface applied on land with greater than 10% slope unless incorporated immediately
- Surface applied on land with greater than 5% slope when the ground is frozen
- Applied on wetland areas

- Applied within 1,000 feet of inhabited dwellings, business, facilities, or lands frequented by the public without documented permission from the owners of the dwelling, business, facilities, or lands. This requirement does not apply to subsurface injections.
- Applied within 500 feet of a municipal water supply well
- Applied to edible portions of crops that are consumed by humans without processing to minimize pathogens before consuming

Composting Paunch

Quantities of less than 1,000 cubic yards of paunch manure per year per site may compost the material prior to land application without a permit provided that the site does not constitute a hazard or threat to human health or the environment. All compost must be actively managed at the site, meaning that the windrow shall be periodically turned and aerated.

A permit is required for sites that receive more than 1,000 cubic yards of livestock waste per year. For more information on permit requirements for composting sites, refer to the DWEE guidance document titled "Permitting and Operating Compost Sites."

Landfill Disposal of Paunch

Paunch manure may be disposed of at a permitted Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfill provided that it contains no free liquids. Contact the landfill before transporting as they may choose not to accept paunch manure.

Paunch Storage

Paunch manure must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination to water. If the paunch manure is stored unconfined on a flat surface where the height of the pile is 20% of the width, it may be stored in a windrow or a static pile. If the paunch manure is not stored in a pile, it may be stored in a lagoon or a container.

Transporting Paunch

Paunch manure must be hauled in a leak-proof, splashproof, tightly covered container in accordance with Department of Transportation requirements.

RESOURCES:

- DWEE Home Page <https://dwee.nebraska.gov/>
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture Home Page <https://nda.nebraska.gov/>

Contacts:

- DWEE Main Number (402) 471-2186
- DWEE Toll Free Number (877) 253-2603
- DWEE Hazardous Waste Compliance Assistant (402) 471-8308
- Email questions to: DWEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov

DWEE Publications:

- Environmental Guidance Document – “Permitting and Operating Compost Sites”
Guidance documents are available on the DWEE website by clicking “Visit Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (DEE),” selecting “Forms,” and “Publications, Grants & Forms.”
- [Title 126 – Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Management of Waste](#)
- [Title 132 – Nebraska Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#)
Titles are available on the DWEE website by clicking “Visit Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (DEE),” selecting “Resources and Services,” “Laws & Regulations,” and “Rules & Regulations.”

Produced by: Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment, 245 Fallbrook Blvd. Ste.100, Lincoln, NE 68521; (402) 471-2186. To view this and other information related to our agency, visit our website at <https://dwee.nebraska.gov/>.