Spring Agricultural Stewardship Reminder

------ 2015 Water Quality Guidelines ------

Spring Manure Spreading: Wait for *real* spring & watch the weather!

The **best time to apply nutrients is as close to the time of crop uptake as possible** for maximum nutrient uptake and lowest environmental impact.

- **Do not** spread manure on saturated ground or before major rain events.
- If emergency manure storage conditions require spreading on saturated ground, observe the **following protocols**:
  - **Avoid spreading when rain** is expected
    - Spreading manure before or during a rain storm can **increase manure runoff by over 10 times!**
  - **Spread at least 150 feet** from top of stream banks, ditches or roadside ditches.
  - **Select most level fields** available and avoid significant (> 5%) slopes.
  - **Utilize reduced** (< 3,000 gallons/acre) spreading rates.
  - **Select fields with cover crops** or good residue.
- **After spreading** any nutrient (liquid or solid manure, compost, or fertilizer) all farms are **required** to keep accurate records of manure applications – see sample record keeping chart attached.

Spring Buffers: Plan for Required Vegetative Buffers before Planting Corn!

- Medium and Large Farm Operations (**MFOs and LFOs**) **are required** to maintain at least **a 25 foot vegetative buffer** along every waterway that is considered a Water of the State.
- Small Farm Operations (**SFOs**) **are required** to maintain at least a **10 foot** vegetative buffer along every waterway that is considered a Water of the State.

Buffers can be harvested but cannot receive manure applications.

VERMONT
AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

For more information about Vermont state water quality regulations, please visit:
http://agriculture.vermont.gov/protecting_lands_waters/agricultural_water_quality