

Required Agricultural Practices Effective Dates Discussion: Fall 2016

Section	Description	Effective Date	Discussion
6.04(d)	Cover Cropping of Floodplain Fields	April 15, 2017	Cover crops will not be required to be established on floodplain annual crop fields for Fall 2016
6.05(b)	Extended Winter Spreading Ban on Floodplain Fields: 10/15 - 4/15	April 15, 2017	The extended winter manure spreading ban for floodplain fields will not be in place for Fall 2016
6.07(a) & 6.07(b)	Vegetative Buffer Zone Establishment: - 25' Streams, - 10' on Ditches; - 100' on Annual Cropland, Vegetable Cropland or Small Grain Cropland with greater than 10% slope	April 15, 2017	25' Vegetative Buffer Zones on surface water, 10' on ditches, and 100' on annual, vegetable or small grain cropland with 10%+ slope will be required to be established prior to the 2017 cropping season. Fall 2016: No tillage will be allowed in the buffer zones on streams and ditches, unless it is for preparing a seeding of perennial vegetation. Fall is an ideal time to establish a perennial vegetative buffer on an annual crop field prior to next spring's cropping season.
6.07(d)	No Application of Manure or Ag Waste within: - 10' of a ditch - 25' of surface water or surface inlet - 100' of surface water on a 10%+ average slope Annual Crop Field	On Adoption	Upon passage of the RAP Rule, manure and ag waste spreading restriction within vegetative buffer zones will become effective and will be enforced. Manure and ag waste spreading restrictions also apply to private (100') and public water supplies (200').
4	Small Farm Certification Program	July 1, 2017	The Certified Small Farm Program will go into effect on July 1, 2017 as outlined in Act 64 of 2015.
6.03(a)	590 Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) Requirement for Certified Small Farm Operations	July 1, 2017	The requirement for Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFO) to develop a 590 Nutrient Management Plan will become effective July 1, 2017. VAAFMM will be working with partners on developing another equivalent standard in the interim which will serve as a stopgap NMP until a farm can access TA resources to develop a 590 NMP. VAAFMM is also reminding farmers that soil sampling has been a requirement of all farms in the state since 1995 and that soil samples should be no more than 5 years old. Records will need to be kept of manure and ag waste applications per the RAP Proposed Rule.
10	Custom Manure & Ag Waste Applicator Certification	January 2017	The Custom Applicator Certification Program will not be effective for the Fall 2016 Manure Spreading Season. The program will be implemented in Winter of 2016/2017 for the Spring of 2017 field season. The Agency reminds Custom Applicators to review Section 10(i) of the Proposed RAPs: (i) If a custom applicator has a request to apply manure or agricultural wastes on a farm that does not have a nutrient management plan as required, the applicator must notify the Agency and request the ability to proceed with the land application. The Secretary may require application restrictions.