

## **Barn Talk: The Brown and White of Winter Application**

Can farmers land apply manure in the winter season? **Yes.** However, a new setback comes into play:

### **“The 300 Foot Setback Rule”-**

**All producers must adhere to the 300’ setback from *sensitive features* when applying manure onto snow covered or frozen ground.**

300 Feet = the length of a football field

### **What are “*sensitive features*”?**

- Streams /Rivers
- Intermittent streams /waterways which flow after storms or when the snow melts
  - The hitch of a ditch: Road ditches flowing to other surface waters become intermittent waterways.
- Lakes - defined by DNR (includes some larger wetlands)
- Protected wetlands
- Drainage ditches
- Open tile intakes

### **To the non farmer who witnesses land application of manure, keep the following in mind:**

1. Manure is organic. The soil needs organic material to stay healthy and viable.
2. Pen pack manure can provide material that stabilizes sediment and holds moisture in the soil.
3. The smell from manure goes away. It is not harmful to your health.
4. If the manure is being injected into the ground, the ground is not frozen.
5. Not all application of manure needs to wait until the soil is 50 degrees. It’s *recommended* when applying manure to coarse soils to wait until soil (@ 6in. depth) drops below 50 degrees. Soil types ending with the descriptor “*loam*” are not coarse soils.
6. Farmers do care about water quality. The majority of manure application is done **correctly**.