

Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture
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NEWS RELEASE
March 7, 2017

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WVDA REMINDS PUBLIC ABOUT SPRINGTIME FARMING PRACTICES

Charleston, W.Va. – With the incredibly mild winter experienced this year, spring time will come sooner than usual. The West Virginia Department of Agriculture wants to remind the public of some upcoming spring time activities.

“With the beginning of spring, there comes preparation before the growing process can take place. Farmers around the state will begin spreading manure needed to revitalize the soil,” said Agriculture Commissioner Kent Leonhardt. “If individuals have concerns or questions about practices, please call the department.”

The warm temperatures and lack of extreme moisture have provided farmers the opportunity to begin field work. If you live near a farm, the breezes may be carrying a distinct odor. That’s because farmers have begun spreading manure. Many farmers follow a Nutrient Management Plan that has been specifically written for their operation. This plan specifies how much manure should be spread per acre to maximize crop yields while reducing nutrient losses to the environment. Although manure doesn’t smell sweet, be assured that it is a valuable resource for farmers and the odor is only temporary.

“The department is here to answer any questions or help implement best practices when it comes to spreading manure. We routinely help set up Nutrient Management Plans with farmers around the state,” stressed Agriculture Outreach Specialist Cindy Shreve. “The department is willing to work with our producers every step of the way.”

To protect local streams and waterways, spreading manure on frozen or snow-covered ground is strongly discouraged. Warm, dry days provide farmers with the perfect opportunity to recycle manure that was produced by their own operation or transported from other locations that have a surplus.

For more information, visit www.agriculture.wv.gov. or call (304) 538-2397.

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