

Quebec manure storage regulations to eliminate fall spreading

by Hugh Maynard

The Quebec Ministry of the Environment (MENVIQ) has received approval of \$25 million for the manure storage program for 1990/91. In addition, the conditions for the grants have been amended.

The Programme d'aide à l'amélioration de la gestion des fumiers (PAAGF) was instituted two years ago to provide assistance for farmers to improve their manure storage facilities and spreading equipment.

The program will now cover up to 70% of the costs of storage facilities with a capacity of 250 days. This will include enlargement, repairs and modifications as well as new structures.

The same percentage of costs will also be covered for liquid manure facilities that have a capacity of 300 days if it is judged by a MAPAQ representative that this will result in a better management of manure.

These conditions will not be retroactive to producers who have already received approval or funding under the program. Conversely, the MENVIQ contracts prohibiting the spreading of manure after September 21st will continue to be enforced.

Under the amendments, new recipients will not have to sign a contract, but Guy Odette of MENVIQ said that eventually a general regulation prohibiting all autumn manure spreading will be passed by the ministry. The intention is to have as many livestock producers as possible with manure storage capacity of at least 250 days, as well as purchasing equipment to enable spreading during the cropping season.

Source: Quebec Farmers' Advocate

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