



Fact Sheet

Proper Disposal of Dairy Waste

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is offering guidance regarding the proper disposal of dairy waste to prevent damages to waters of the state. This fact sheet is intended to inform and assist dairy producers, haulers, samplers, cooperatives, transfer stations, and processing plant operators.

IDEM has consulted with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (ISBOAH), Office of the Indiana State Chemist (OISC) Feed Administrator and Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) to produce this summary. The agencies' responsibilities covered in this fact sheet include:

- ISBOAH regulates production, transportation, processing, packaging and distribution of dairy products for human consumption.
- OISC regulates animal feeds.
- ISDH regulates commercial septic systems.
- IDEM regulates spills and proper waste management.

Milk, milk products and all dairy processing wastes must be properly disposed when they have been spilled, do not meet applicable quality standards, have become contaminated, or otherwise have become unusable for human consumption, animal feed, or any other beneficial use. Milk, which cannot be sold to a processor may be recycled by the farmer in the same manner used for manure. Waste from milk processing, including but not limited to raw milk, processed milk, wash water, and disinfectants are considered industrial process wastewater. Industrial process wastewater is not permitted to be discharged to septic systems, or to waters of the state through field tiles, direct dumping or any other method.

Spills of Milk or Milk Waste

When milk or milk wastes have been spilled in or near waters of the state, whether the spill occurs at a facility or during transportation, the responsible party must do the following:

1. Immediately contain the spill and prevent additional spilled materials from entering waters of the state.
2. Perform a spill response, which means to contain the spill and remove spilled materials.
3. Report the spill to IDEM's 24-hour spill reporting line at 888-233-7745, as soon as possible but within 2 hours.
4. Submit a written report to IDEM, upon request.
5. Notify affected landowners and any downstream water user within the nearest 10 miles.

Proper disposal of raw milk and related waste liquids owned by the Producer (Dairy Farmer)

Producers must use these methods for disposal of dairy waste liquids, including but not limited to raw milk, wash water, and disinfectants. Raw milk is unpasteurized and unprocessed and its physical, chemical, or biological properties have not been altered.

1. Land application alone or in combination with manure Follow manure management guidelines outlined in the Confined Feeding Operations (CFO) rule. A permit for manure management may still be applicable under CFO.
2. Solidification and disposal at a permitted municipal solid waste landfill.
3. Haul to a permitted wastewater treatment plant.
4. Discharge into a permitted sanitary sewer. A pretreatment permit from the local sewer authority or an Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment permit from IDEM is required.

When a producer retains ownership of raw milk that has left the production farm, that raw milk may be returned to the farm of origin for land application.

Proper disposal of raw milk, milk products, milk by-products, and related waste liquids by owners other than the Producer

Bulk milk haulers, bulk milk samplers, milk transfer stations, cooperatives, and processing plants must use the following methods for proper disposal of raw milk; milk products, including but not limited to pasteurized milk, flavored milk, canned milk, condensed milk, cheeses, ice cream, or yogurts; milk by-products, including but not limited to whey and cow water; and related waste liquids, including but not limited to disinfectants and spent wash water.

1. Land application by permit. IDEM requires a permit for land application of industrial process wastes, including dairy wastes.
2. Solidification and disposal at a permitted municipal solid waste landfill.
3. Haul to a permitted wastewater treatment plant.
4. Discharge to a permitted sanitary sewer. A pretreatment permit from the local sewer authority or an Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment permit from IDEM is required.

For further information, you can refer to the following rules and statutes:

IC 13-30: Enforcement and Legal Actions, administered by IDEM

- Spills; Reporting; Containment; and Response: 327 IAC 2-6.1
- Land Application of Biosolids, Industrial Waste Product, and Pollutant-Bearing Water: 327 IAC 6.1 (refer to for specifics about industrial process wastewater)
- Confined Feeding Operations: 327 IAC 16
- Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Programs (NPDES) Wastewater Pretreatment: 327 IAC 5-1-1
- Management of Sewage Disposal System Wastewater: 327 IAC 7
- Solid Waste Land Disposal Facilities: 329 IAC 10

IC 15-2.1-23: Milk and Milk Products; Permits; Standards; Inspections, administered by ISBOAH

- Dairy Products: 345 IAC 8

IC 15-5-13: Indiana Commercial Feed Law, administered under OISC by the Feed Administrator

410 IAC 6-10: Commercial On-Site Wastewater Disposal, administered by ISDH

For further information, you can contact the following staff:

IDEM, Office of Land Quality, Permit Branch – Dennis Lasiter, 800-451-6027, extension 2-8732

IDEM Agricultural Relations - Kristin Whittington, 800- 451-6027, extension 2-8587

ISBOAH, Dairy Division - George Jones, 877-747-3038, extension 350

ISDH Sanitary Engineering – Howard Cundiff, P.E., 317-233-7173

OISC Feed Administrator – Bob Geiger, 765-494-1492