

# National Weather Service (NWS) FORECAST and FARMERS MAP ADEM AFO/CAFO Program For Land Application

Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) owner/operators, Certified Animal Waste Vendors (CAWVs), or anyone else land applying waste/nutrients must ensure that nutrient/pollution runoff is prevented, so that stormwater runoff sampling from land application fields and instream monitoring does not have to be conducted. Land application must be accomplished in a manner that meets or exceeds Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards and guidelines, and complies fully with ADEM requirements.

The FORECAST and FARMERS MAP are designed to assist farmers with implementation of the NRCS Nutrient Management Code 590 Standard [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/AL/590\\_11-02.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/AL/590_11-02.pdf) as updated, which is a requirement of the ADEM AFO/CAFO program (ADEM administrative Code Chapter 335-6-7). There is no requirement that the FARMERS MAP be used to time land application activities, provided land application is based upon a valid NWS FORECAST. The FARMERS MAP is simply a secondary tool that can be utilized to evaluate whether land application activities can be conducted in compliance with ADEM requirements. However, there may be times that using the FARMERS MAP may allow for land application when the FORECAST alone would not.

Farmers can land apply animal waste/nutrients provided that up to 72-hours out from the land application activity, the weather information from the NWS is used appropriately by following the steps below:

	% Chance	Action
<b>Step 1</b>	Less Than 50% Rain Chance for each of the next 3 days (Do Not Need To View Farmers Map)	<a href="http://nsstc.uah.edu/alclimate/graphicalFcst/index.php">http://nsstc.uah.edu/alclimate/graphicalFcst/index.php</a> <b>or</b> <a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/</a> Land application allowed if FORECAST less than 50% chance of rain for each of the next 3 days, regardless of the potential rain amount. This information can be obtained from NWS radio or website and you <u>do not</u> need to consult the Farmers map.
<b>Step 2 (If Needed)</b>	50% or Greater Rain Chance on one of the next 3 days	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/media/bmx/adem/farmers_map.php">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/media/bmx/adem/farmers_map.php</a> Land apply <u>only if</u> FARMERS MAP shows that the area in which the application will take place is white (not <b>RED</b> )

The FARMERS MAP is intended to provide farmers with an additional option when the percent chance of rain is elevated, but the amount of rain predicted is low (not expected to cause runoff from the field). If a farmer needs to land apply when the rain prediction is 50% chance or greater sometime during the next 72 hours, they can view the FARMERS MAP, verify that their area of the State is white (not **RED**), print a copy for their records, and then land apply according to their Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) prepared as part of their facility's comprehensive Waste Management System Plan (WMSP). If a NMP does not exist for the field, measures must be taken and documented to ensure that land application meets or exceeds ADEM rules and NRCS technical standards and guidelines. The information on the map is only valid for the 12-hour period shown.

Land application is not authorized up to 72 hours prior to a significant chance or amount of rain. However, land application may commence or resume immediately following the rain provided that the weather prediction for the next 72-hours is favorable, and field conditions meet or exceed NRCS technical standards and guidelines.