

Livestock Containment Systems: Survey of Producers

The situation

Livestock producers have installed livestock containment systems on their operations in recent years due to the growing federal and state regulations put in place. Producers are trying to determine what they need to do to come into compliance and where cost-share assistance is available. Many agencies in North Dakota provide information and assistance to producers, which has been confusing at times. A survey was designed to help improve the information delivery system throughout the system of agencies.

Extension response

NDSU Extension continues to see the value of providing educational opportunities for producers concerned about the environmental impacts of their operations. The process of installing a livestock containment system is intense and often time consuming. Our goal for the survey was to help define the areas we need to improve upon in our program planning and outreach for future producers implementing livestock containment systems.

The survey was designed in conjunction with Dr. Myron Eighmy (Associate Professor, NDSU School of Education). The 51 question survey was sent out to producers that had received a ND Department of Health permit to operate in 2004-2007.

Impacts

Surveys were sent out to producers in the winter of 2007-08. The return rate of the surveys was 43.5% (a total of 62 surveys were sent out).

Nutrient Management Plan (NMP):

14% indicated that they don't use the NMP
58% use the NMP yearly

Design Phase:

48% indicated that the length of time needed to complete the design took longer than they expected with 21% of the designs taking longer than 12 months to complete

Funding Phase:

Cost-share was (very) available to producers (93%), but estimated costs were inaccurate compared to actual cost 48% of the time

Permitting Phase:

88% of respondents found it easy to obtain accurate information on permit requirements

Construction Phase:

56% of systems were constructed in less than 6 months

General Questions:

93% of producers were satisfied with the final system

Feedback

"I am overall pleased with the results and I am pleased with my cattle's performance and the ability of my system to stay dry even after a heavy rain. I also like the fact that my runoff is contained and I am being a better steward of my land." -Producer

"Go and be proactive and get it done before you have a problem." -Producer

Contact

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