



## Farmer Non-Commercial Septage Operator Certification

Dear Applicant:

Wisconsin Act 347 was signed into law on April 29, 2006 to allow farmers the ability to land apply their own holding tank waste onto owned or leased parcels. The intent of the Act was to eliminate misuse of the exemption under previous law which was done primarily by non-farmers who were not actually eligible for the exemption. It was not the intent to penalize true farmers operating in compliance with the terms of the exemption. The Department is not opposed to allowing true farmers the ability to land apply their waste in an environmentally sound manner. This Act created an application process and now defines who is eligible for the exemption: true farmers generating their own waste who have a minimum of 40 acres of land in active agricultural production. Fees, certification exams, and other requirements are waived. However, at a minimum you must meet the following requirements of chapter NR 113 Wis. Adm. Code:

1. The holding tank must be located on the same parcel of land where the septage will be land applied. Parcel of land means that it is contiguous, although it can be divided by a road or railroad track, and under the same ownership interest.
2. You must own or lease at least a 40 acre contiguous parcel of land which is in use for agricultural purposes.
3. Sufficient land must be included in the 40 acre parcel which meets the department requirements (see below) for land application and which can adequately receive the projected volume of wastewater.
4. You must comply with all applicable statutes and rules in removing and land applying the wastewater.
5. Keep records of when you pump, how much is pumped, where it is applied, and how it is applied.
6. You must report all pumping activity to your County when requested. Failure to report may result in a suspended or revoked certification.

Minimum land application and other requirements which you will need to satisfy include the following site restrictions (please see Chapter NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code for more detail as this is not an exhaustive list):

- At least 3 feet of depth to groundwater or bedrock
- Soil permeability of no greater than 6 inches per hour in the top three feet of soil
- At least 250 feet of separation to a private well and 1000 feet to a public well
- At least 250 feet of separation to a home or business with approval (500 feet without approval) Note this distance may be reduced further if the septage is injected or incorporated
- At least 1000 feet from a rural school or health care facility
- Slope must be less than 6% if surface applied or 12% if injected or incorporated (less than 2% if frozen or snow covered)
- At least 200 feet from any surface water, including wetlands or sinkholes (may be reduced if injected or incorporated) – 750 feet if frozen or snow covered
- No more than 3,000 gallons per week may be applied to the same parcel of land (no more than 10,000 total gallons per acre on frozen or snow covered ground).
- You must report each pumping event to your County according to their requirements
- The holding tank waste must either be injected, incorporated (disced or plowed under within 6 hours), or hydrated lime must be added to it to raise the pH to 12 and held there for 30 minutes.
- There is a 30 day restriction for animal grazing or public access to the field.

- You must have a watertight implement which can pump your tank and land apply it in a uniform pattern. You should not need to drive on a public roadway other than to cross one, in order to access your field.

The above requirements are to protect the public health and environment and include federal as well as state regulations.

Complete and submit form 3400-194 Farmer Non-Commercial Septage Operator Certificate along with a plat map, soil survey map with soil type shown, and an aerial photo. These maps are available from your County Conservationist. On each map, outline the field to which you will apply the waste clearly marking the area which meets the above requirements. Note on the aerial photo the location of any homes or drinking wells and the location of the holding tank.

If you meet the above requirements you will be approved for this certification and you will be able to pump and land apply your own holding tank waste on your approved agricultural land.

To get your questions answered about this certification by emailing the Farmer Certification Program at [DNROpCertSeptage@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNROpCertSeptage@wisconsin.gov)

To apply, submit the application and required maps to your local DNR office.

Regional Office	Coordinator Name	Counties of Responsibility
South Central Region Horicon Service Center N7725 Highway 28 Horicon WI, 53032	Stephen Warnner <a href="mailto:Stephen.Warnner@Wisconsin.gov">Stephen.Warnner@Wisconsin.gov</a> 920-387-7870	Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk
Southeast Region 2300 N Dr Martin Luther King Jr Dr Milwaukee WI 53212	Kimberly Thomas-Britt <a href="mailto:Kimberly.ThomasBritt@wisconsin.gov">Kimberly.ThomasBritt@wisconsin.gov</a> 414-263-8635	Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha
Northeast Region 2984 Shawano Ave Green Bay WI 54313	Heidi Schmitt-Marquez <a href="mailto:Heidi.SchmittMarquez@Wisconsin.gov">Heidi.SchmittMarquez@Wisconsin.gov</a> 920-662-5145	Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago,
West Central Region Black River Falls Office 910 Highway 54 E Black River Falls WI 54615	Mike Vollrath 715-839-3796	Adams, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, LaCrosse, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Portage, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, Wood
Northern Region 2501 Golf Course Rd Ashland WI 54806	Alison Canniff <a href="mailto:Alison.Canniff@Wisconsin.gov">Alison.Canniff@Wisconsin.gov</a> 715-685-0450	Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn